

Thursday September 24 1998

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The Guardian

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INTERNATIONAL
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Cover story

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Seven held in terror swoop

Duncan Campbell, Richard Norton-Taylor and David Pallister

S EVEN Middle Eastern men were arrested on terrorism charges in London yesterday in an operation connected with Osama bin Laden, the Saudi dissident alleged to have been behind the recent bombings of US embassies in Africa.

The arrests followed a lengthy intelligence-led operation, codenamed Operation Challenge, involving the Metropolitan police's anti-terrorist branch, the police Special Branch and MI5. They were in contact with the FBI over the operation.

The raids took place at houses in north-west and west London at around 8am yesterday. An eighth raid, on a business premises in London, took place in the afternoon.

The seven men arrested were last night being questioned in a central London police station, understood to be Paddington Green. It is believed that at least two of those held are Egyptian.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "This was part of a carefully planned ongoing operation led by the Metropolitan police anti-terrorist branch." This was one of the first major operations under the leadership of the new head of the anti-terrorist branch, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry. It has been under way for a number of weeks.

Scotland Yard were not prepared to discuss whether the arrests concerned investigations into plans to carry out acts of terrorism in the United Kingdom and aimed at targets linked to the United States.

The men were arrested under section 14 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989 which concerns the commission of acts of terrorism.

Islamic sources in London said the men arrested were largely associated with Egyptian Islamic fundamentalist groups. They named one as an Egyptian lawyer who was sentenced to death in absentia in October last year for conspiring to blow up the old bazaar in Cairo. He has been granted political asylum in Britain.

The Egyptian authorities claimed he was a member of the Vanguard of the Conquest, a sister group of al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, which claimed responsibility for the massacre in Luxor last year in which 58 tourists were killed.

Most of the fundamentalists seeking asylum in Britain have regular contact with an assigned Special Branch contact and many of them openly campaign at meetings, demonstrations and at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. They also openly collect money at some of London's mosques after Friday prayers. After the bombing of the US embassies in east Africa several

attended a noisy protest rally outside the embassy in Grosvenor Square.

The moves follow a series of arrests of alleged lieutenants and supporters of Mr bin Laden in an international intelligence operation orchestrated by the FBI.

Last week, German anti-terrorist forces arrested Mahmud Salim at the request of the US authorities. Mr Salim acknowledged he knows Mr bin Laden but denied any connection with the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

In the US, the FBI has arrested Wadiah Hage, a former secretary to Mr bin Laden.

It is understood that yesterday's raids were not connected with the recent changes in anti-terrorism laws giving police extra powers to charge people conspiring to plan terrorist acts abroad. However, the existing Prevention of Terrorism Act makes it an offence to plan terrorist outrages in other countries, although the police would need more specific evidence than mere conspiracy.

Mr bin Laden, who is believed to be in Afghanistan, is wanted in connection with the bombings of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania last month in which more than 250 people died. The attacks led to bombing reprisals by the United States against his alleged training camp in Afghanistan and a chemical factory near Khartoum. Sudan has insisted the plant was a pharmaceutical plant, a view which has gained increasing currency among diplomats in both the US and Britain.

Following the reprisals, a little-known South African group bombed the US-owned Planet Hollywood in Cape Town, seriously injuring members of a British family.

Parents to keep right to smack

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

PARENTS in Britain are likely to be banned from caning or beating their children following a landmark ruling yesterday from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. But the Government plans to preserve the right to smack and deliver other mild physical chastisements.

The Government accepted that it was bound to change the law after nine judges ruled unanimously that a boy's caning by his stepfather violated his right to protection from "torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". It will now grapple with the difficulties of drawing the line between acceptable and unacceptable punishments.

Its decision not to abolish corporal punishment completely will bring it into conflict with an influential coalition of 140 child welfare groups, including most of the leading organisations in the child protection field, which want children to be given the same protection from assault as adults. That would mean a legal ban on corporal punishment, though in practice trivial assaults such as smacking would not be prosecuted.

The 14-year-old boy, who can be named only as A, was repeatedly beaten by his stepfather from the age of five to eight with a three-foot garden

cane. The strokes, at least some of which were inflicted directly on the skin, caused bruises and linear scars.

His stepfather was acquitted of assault causing actual bodily harm after arguing that he had only administered "reasonable chastisement" as allowed by law.

The court held that Britain breached the European Convention on Human Rights by allowing such a wide defence, thereby depriving children of protection from serious assault. The judges awarded A £10,000 compensation and £20,000 legal costs.

In a series of cases over the past decade, parents, step-parents and teachers who have beaten children with belts, canes and electric flexes have been acquitted by juries after pleading reasonable chastisement, a defence which dates back centuries.

After a finding last November by the European Commission of Human Rights that A's human rights had been violated, the health minister, Paul Boateng, acknowledged that the boy's punishment was "cruel, inexcusable and has no place in a civilised society". He promised to consult interested parties on how the law should be changed.

The 140-group alliance, including Barnardo's, the NSPCC, Save the Children, the National Children's Bureau and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, issued a statement yesterday calling for the outlawing of all corporal punishment of children.

The alliance said: "We believe it is both wrong and impracticable to seek to define acceptable forms of corporal punishment of children. Such an exercise is unjust. Hitting children is a lesson in bad behaviour."

It argued that while the change would technically criminalise smacking, in practice this would not be prosecuted. On the other hand, the move would clarify the law and ease prosecution in serious cases.

But Mr Boateng signalled yesterday that the Government was unconvinced. "This Labour government believes turn to page 3, column 1



A Persian cat peers from a cage near Heathrow airport where it is undergoing six months' quarantine, an ordeal that could be ended for pets with microchip identification. The Government said yesterday it was sympathetic to such a plan. It is also considering microchip identification tags for all dogs in Britain. Report, page 3. PHOTOGRAPH: IAN WALDIE

Heath tells of firing squad ordeal

TV film reveals war trauma and casts light on ex-PM's love life

Nicholas Watt
Political Correspondent

SIR Edward Heath has spoken movingly of the trauma he suffered at the end of the second world war when he was put in charge of a firing squad which executed a soldier convicted of rape.

In a television portrait of the former Prime Minister, Sir Edward vividly recalls how he watched as the Polish soldier was led to the firing range and blindfolded before he gave the order to fire.

Friends of Sir Edward say in the programme that his wartime experiences, in which he served with the Royal Artillery as a battery commander, toughened him up ahead of his political career.

Sir Edward, aged 82, who first saw action after the D-Day Landings, was put in charge of the firing squad at the end of the war. He tells the programme, A Very Singular Man, which will be broadcast on BBC2

on Sunday: "I didn't sleep particularly well that night. The Polish man was taken outside by the guards and tied up blindfolded. Then the firing squad marched out and I gave the orders for them to fire. I obviously felt uneasy."

Sir Edward said that watching a man die at such close quarters was far more traumatic than the death he witnessed in battle. He said: "It is one thing to be in the war when you see the enemy on the other side and you bombard them. Then later on when you pass over their ground you see the dead bodies lying

around. But it is very different when you see an individual."

Lord Healey, the former Labour Chancellor who has known Sir Edward since they were contemporaries at Oxford in the 1930s, told the programme that such experiences added a ruthless streak to his character which helped to shape his political career. Lord Healey said: "He was enormously changed by his experiences as a gunner. He came out of the army called Ted rather than Teddy. He had a toughness which had not been visible."

The programme also



Moura Lympasy, who was asked to marry Edward Heath



Sir Edward Heath

touches on the delicate subject of Sir Edward's love life and discloses that the Tory party's "men in grey suits" once took it upon themselves to attempt to find a wife for their leader. In 1972, half way through his term as Prime Minister, the Tories were so concerned that Sir Edward's bachelor status would damage the party that Sir Tufon Beamish, a backbencher, approached Sir Edward's close friend, the pianist Dame Moura Lympasy, to ask whether she should wed the Prime Minister.

Dame Moura, who used to visit Sir Edward regularly in Downing Street and Chequers, told the programme: "Tufon Beamish came to see me one day and he said to me: 'Moura, Ted must get married. Will you marry him?' But I said I was in love with so-and-so. If Ted had asked me to marry him I should have considered it a great honour."

A lifelong friend of Sir Edward's told the programme that he was a "little bit defensive about women". Ken Hunt said: "People said he was queer. People do say that. Actually he is just wedded to his politics and that's it. There is no place for anybody else."

The programme also

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Blair to create elections supremo

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

TONY Blair is to create a powerful post to take control of the Labour machine and election campaigning, the equivalent of the Conservative party chairman.

The Prime Minister will shortly announce the incumbent, who will almost certainly be of cabinet rank and who will be described as campaigns co-ordinator.

The staff at Millbank, the party's headquarters, will welcome the appointment of a figurehead who will represent them in Cabinet and keep them abreast of developments.

Although Labour had a campaign co-ordinator in opposition, it has not had anyone carrying out the role in government before. Peter Mandelson filled the role in

the run-up to the general election, along with Gordon Brown. The lack of such a post in government has been identified as a weakness.

The new job will change the dynamics of Mr Blair's government. While the government machine is represented by powerful personalities such as Alastair Campbell at Downing Street, Millbank has not had the same punching power.

Margaret Beckett, who became Leader of the Commons in the summer reshuffle after losing her job as Trade and Industry Secretary, is front-

runner. She would carry it out alongside her Commons job.

Mr Blair will ensure the post goes to someone loyal who will not use the power-base to further their own ambitions.

The Conservatives had problems in the past when party chairmen were at odds with Downing Street, the most notable bust-up coming during the 1987 general election campaign between Thatcher and the then party chairman, Lord Tebbit.

The Labour leadership admires the clear direction that

having a strong chairman has given the Conservatives. Labour's campaign co-ordinator, as well as acting as a conduit between the Cabinet and the party and organising elections, will head press conferences for party announcements.

The party had no one this week, for instance, to act as front man for the contentious announcement of candidates for the European Parliament.

The appointment is urgent because Labour has a number of elections coming up: the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and council

elections are all in May and the European elections the following month.

Preparation for the next general election, likely to be held in 2001, will begin in January.

Geoff Mulgan, one of the founders of the think-tank Demos, is already working in Downing Street on the manifesto for the next election.

The Labour Party has a general secretary — currently Tom Sawyer, who will be replaced next week by Margaret McDonagh — but the post-holder is concerned primarily with the smooth func-

tioning of Millbank. The campaign co-ordinator will have a more political role.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, is a favourite for the post eventually. Although she is too busy with Northern Ireland at present, the betting at Westminster is that she will fill the post before the general election.

Labour has long wanted the government machine and the party to work in tandem. Jack Cunningham, who was given the job of "enforcer" in the reshuffle, responsible for coordinating Whitehall an-

nouncements, seemed an obvious choice to take on the party role too, but Westminster sources insist separation is preferred.

The Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, has also been considered. He co-ordinated Labour's campaign in London for the 1987 general election but is regarded as having enough work at present with the health portfolio.

Mr Mandelson intermit-

tently kept an eye on the party machine while minister without portfolio, but he is now tied up at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Coral up for grabs after merger block

Lisa Buckingham City Editor

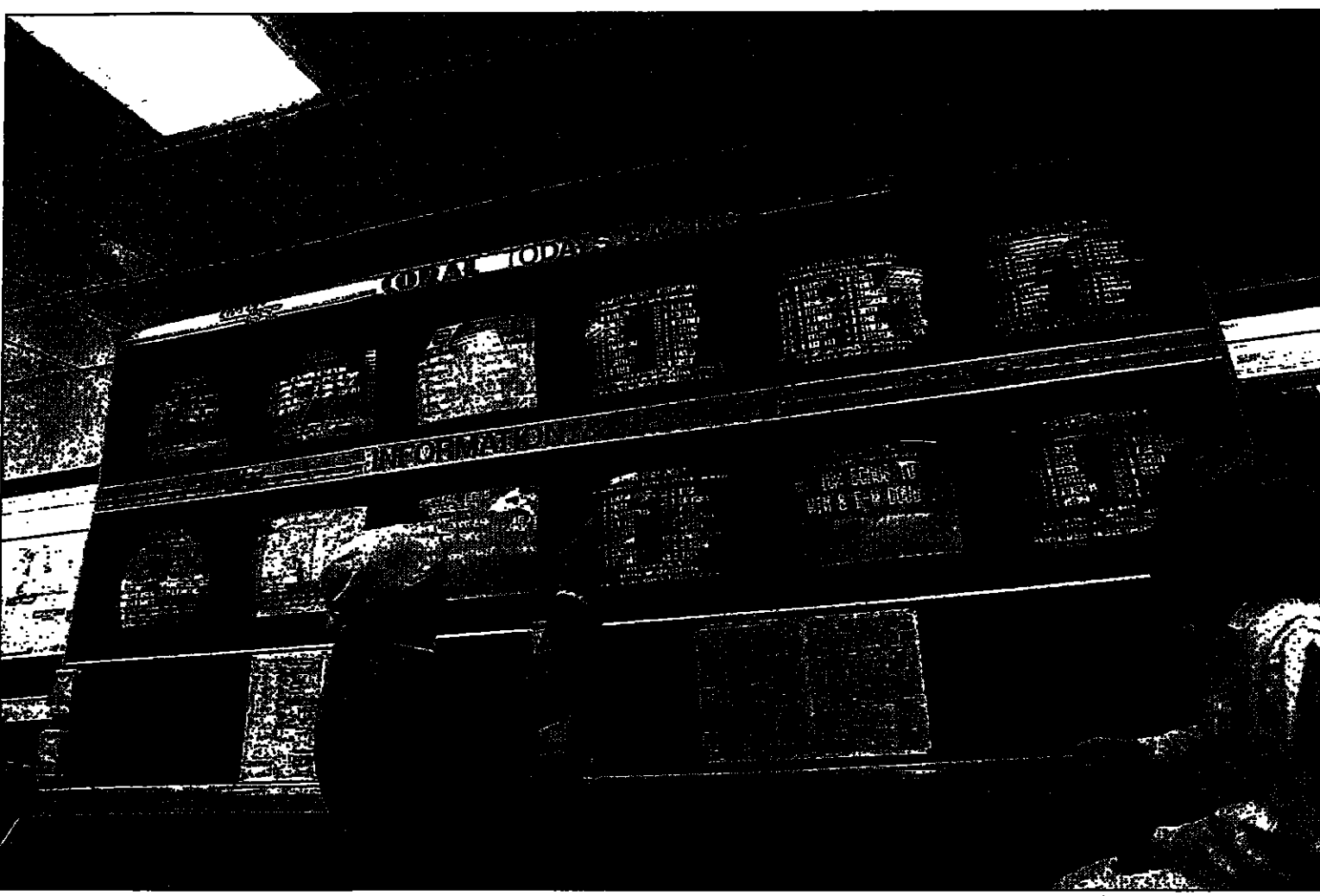
A HIGH-ROLLING auction for Britain's third largest betting chain got under way yesterday after the Government decided to block the sale of Coral to rival Ladbroke.

Leisure giant Ladbroke, which was already the country's biggest bookmaker, paid £576 million to buy Coral's 891 betting shops from Bass at the start of the year.

But yesterday Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson ordered Ladbroke to unseat "his own deal" and sell off all the Coral shops it has been running for the past nine months and which are pumping out profits of about £3 million a month.

Ladbroke knew the deal was likely to hit competition concerns so it agreed to sell 300 of the outlets to the Tote, the state-owned bookmaking business. But that still left the company with about 35 per cent of the off-course betting market, a commanding position which has been diluted only fractionally by the company's offer to sell two greyhound racecourses and its telephone betting business.

In his first major competition ruling since becoming Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Mandelson followed the advice of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to throw out the deal.



Trade Secretary Peter Mandelson has ordered that Ladbroke must sell the 891 Coral betting shops if acquired earlier this year. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

But, in what many industry executives regarded as rough justice, Ladbroke has been given just six months to sell off the whole of the Coral estate — a much tighter than usual time frame.

Mr Mandelson said he had been convinced that the deal would weaken price competition, dampen innovation and reduce punters' choice of local betting shops. He also feared that prices and standards of service in telephone betting might deteriorate.

There had been substantial political worries about the takeover. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary and a keen

racing fan, expressed reservations, while a report commissioned by 40 MPs predicted the acquisition would reduce competition to the detriment of consumers.

Ladbroke admitted it was disappointed at the decision but had boasted it would make a profit whether it was allowed to keep the Coral chain or was forced to sell.

The group has already received "a substantial amount of interest from prospective purchasers". Insiders said that more than 10 financial and trade buyers had already expressed an interest. A bid from the management

is also regarded as likely and Ladbroke has not ruled out the possibility of floating the operation on the stock market if share prices pick up.

Peter Jones, chairman of the Tote, said he had already been in touch with his merchant bankers in an attempt to bid for the entire chain. "There are doubts, however, whether the Tote can raise the finance for such a large deal which would transform it into the sector's unchallenged third biggest player."

Stanley Leisure will also bid for some of the Coral outlets and even the giant William Hill, now owned by the

Japanese banking group, Nomura, may try to pick off one or two sites. However, the company, which welcomed Mr Mandelson's decision, owns about 1,500 betting shops and would hit competition obstacles similar to those faced by Ladbroke if it were to make too adventurous a bid.

Mr Mandelson made it clear he wanted Ladbroke to sell to one buyer if possible although he would accept a break up of the business if that would improve competition and help high street punters.

Ladbroke said last night it

was selling a business which was "in better shape than when it had been acquired."

But rivals point out that Ladbroke paid about 15 per cent more than other bidders offered for Coral in the first place. Although betting is a "small change" business, there are fears that the economy is heading into recession and could hit consumers' spending. In addition, there are fewer rich and aggressive venture capitalists in the market and that might reduce the number of potential buyers for the business.

More difficult — indeed virtually an impossibility, even in the view of Mr Rushdie's supporters — is a revocation or annulment of the religious fatwa issued by the late Ayatollah Khomeini.

Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister, said that condemnation by the Iranian government of the bounty offer to the author's killers could be enough.

"That would be the sort of language we are looking for," he said.

Iranian sources repeated that movement was likely, though it was unclear whether it would go far enough to satisfy Britain. "The meeting is an important one and if we have breakthroughs that clearly heralds a new era of relations between Britain and Iran," Mr Fatchett said.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Cook meets counterpart for Rushdie fatwa talks

Richard Norton-Taylor and Ian Black in New York

ROBIN Cook will today meet his Iranian counterpart amid growing anticipation of a breakthrough in relations with Tehran poisoned for the past nine years by the fatwa against the author, Salman Rushdie.

The Foreign Secretary will meet Kamal Kharrazi — the first between the two men — in the margins of the UN General Assembly to seek what officials described as "clarification" of remarks made on Tuesday by Mohammed Khatami, the Iranian president.

Mr Khatami told journalists that the Rushdie affair was "completely finished" and that his government "has no decision in this matter".

Mr Rushdie yesterday met Foreign Office officials in London accompanied by Frances D'Souza and Carmel Bedford of the International Rushdie Defence Committee. They said later they remained "cautiously optimistic".

The long-running dispute between Britain and Iran over the fatwa was described as delicately poised. Mr Rushdie, who has effectively been under a death threat since the 1989 fatwa, plans a further meeting at the FO today.

Mr Cook's immediate priority is an Iranian decision to remove the \$1.2 million bounty placed on the author of the Satanic Verses by the Islamic militant Khordad Foundation.

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Iran has already said it would not send agents to carry out the fatwa — which decreed that any Muslim able to do so — but that only the person who issues a fatwa can formally revoke it.

Dr Ghayassuddin Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain, yesterday insisted the fatwa remained in place. "The government in Iran has no authority to revoke the fatwa," he said.

"It is Islamic law, it will remain so irrespective of what does or does not happen in Tehran," he added. He was careful, however, to emphasise that the Parliament was not calling for Muslims in Britain to attempt to carry out the death sentence on Mr Rushdie.

"We have always said that the fatwa is valid, but as far as Muslims here are concerned, they should make

'Breakthrough heralds new era of relations for two countries'

sure they are not involved in carrying out the fatwa," Dr Siddiqui said.

Prospects for resolving the Rushdie case have been a key element of the recently intensifying contacts between the two governments, most recently last week when a senior Iranian diplomat, Ali Akbar Velayati, visited London.

Mr Fatchett revealed that as part of the carefully choreographed moves to improve relations, Iran, until recently accused of supporting terrorism itself, had sent condolences to the British government after last month's Omagh bombing.

Britain had reciprocated by condemning the assassination of a notorious former governor of prisons and the murder of Iranian diplomats by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Asked if a pledge by Mr Kharrazi, from the liberal wing of the Iranian government, would stick, or be challenged by hardliners, Mr Fatchett said: "If Kharrazi comes with the magic piece of paper I assume he will have the authority of others."

Satire lost in free adaptation of the sexual daisy-chain

Review

Michael Billington

The Blue Room Donmar Warehouse

YES, Nicole Kidman can certainly act. So too can John Glen, and Sam Mendes is an excellent director. But if *The Blue Room* is something short of a triumph, the reason lies in David Hare's decision to update

Schnitzler's 1900 erotic masterpiece, *La Ronde*, and treat it as an ironic commentary on the gulf between dreams and reality: the result is a curious hybrid that sacrifices much of the original's social satire and lambent melancholy.

Hare has stuck faithfully to Schnitzler's structure: a sexual daisy-chain depicting 10 pairs of interlocking lovers. He also shows how the sundry couplings constantly lead to remorse, regret, a puzzled tristesse or a brutal indifference to the object of passion. But Hare has also freely al-

tered the characters and the social context: thus in the opening scene a prostitute encounters a screw-and-run cab driver rather than a heartless soldier and in the next scene the cabbie meets a coolly contained pair at a party rather than a housemaid on her Sunday night off.

You could argue that human folly hasn't changed much and that we still project our dreams and fantasies on to our partners. But Schnitzler was writing about a deeply stratified society — *fin de siècle* Vienna — in which aristocrats and off-

icers played their way through life and were surprised when they provoked tragedy: a classic case is Schnitzler's sweet young girl from the suburbs who here becomes a hip, 17-year-old coke-sniffing model who has drugged sex with her politician-lover. Schnitzler's subtle point about innocence and experience turns into something much more obvious about the private hypocrisy of public men.

Marber's *Closer*, with its portrait of the spiritual solitude underlying modern sexual freedom, seems in many

ways closer to Schnitzler than this free adaptation. It is Hare's comic scenes that come off best and which show Kidman to be a superb character actress. She is vividly funny as a politician's wife viewing her student-lover's impotence with wry tolerance and even better as a posturing actress who treats sex as an extension of her on-stage performance and who talks of the theatre as "a love drizzle of persistent complaint". Kidman writes scenes with consummate ease, endowing the prostitute of the opening and closing

scenes with a bruised loneliness. She is not just a star: she genuinely delivers the goods.

Like Kidman, Glen takes off in the comic scenes where the writing is sharpest: he relishes his moment as a vain playwright who prides himself on his vocabulary and who cannot believe his lover is unaware of his renown. While the evening is full of sensual delight and Mendes's production is smooth as silk, I feel that Hare, in adapting Schnitzler, has also diluted him.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

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of modern
paintings
and fooled
galleries
and artists
to earn vast
sums of
money, court
told
**Amelia
Gentleman**
reports



John Drewe: said in court to have adopted a number of different identities, including professor, doctor and nuclear physicist

Art world 'duped by conman'

A BRILLIANT but unscrupulous conman successfully pulled off a sophisticated conspiracy to defraud the art world by commissioning high-quality fake masterpieces which came complete with expertly forged documentary credentials, a court heard yesterday.

So ingenious was John Drewe's scheme that he managed to fool several prominent West End art galleries as well as a number of private dealers into believing that the forged paintings were genuine works by leading 20th century artists.

The extent of his deceit seriously damaged the reputations of British artists such as Ben Nicholson and Graham Sutherland, and undermined the integrity of London's art world by tainting its archival sources, the jury at Southwark crown court was told.

Described as clever and articulate, Drewe "realised that if works by famous 20th century artists could be faked and archive material corrupted, then he could sell worthless paintings as originals for vast sums of money", said John Bevan QC, prosecuting.

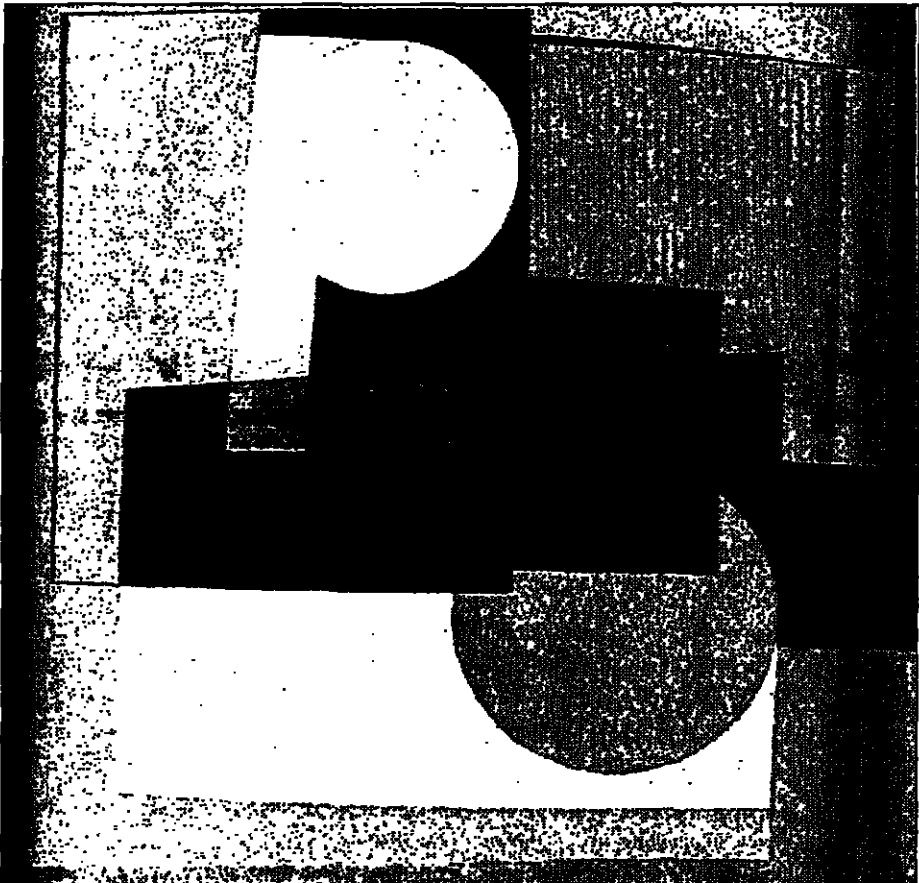
"You get someone to forge a painting, you then create a false provenance for it by manipulating the archive material, and then you can sell it as genuine," he said.

Drewe recruited the skilled but impoverished artist John Myatt through an advertisement in Private Eye and encouraged him to "practise and perfect the style of famous artists", whilst he concentrated on producing false documents to add authority to the forgeries.

Drewe, aged 50, devoted himself over a 10-year period to falsifying documents and corrupting archives. He managed to gain entrance to the archives of the Tate Gallery (after donating £20,000 to the



Daniel Stoakes, above, acted as Drewe's intermediary. Right, 1945 (two circles), a painting by Ben Nicholson, one of the many artists whose reputations were seriously damaged



museum), "systematically raiding archive material, stealing from it or copying and forging that material. The damage caused was considerable."

He also plundered archives in the Victoria and Albert museum as he tried to draw up fake provenances for the forged works.

He persuaded the unwitting families of dead artists to give him information which helped strengthen his claims that the works were genuine. A book containing reproductions of well-known painters' signatures was found among his possessions.

"He is a consummate operator and expert in his chosen field, to such an extent that the integrity of any document of importance that came into his possession must be regarded as doubtful," Mr Bevan said.

Myatt was paid just £250 per painting, while Drewe raked in the profits. One painting, which Drewe was said to have described as a Nicholson, was sold in America for \$175,000 (£104,000). Myatt has pleaded guilty to his part in the scam and has repaid the £18,000 he earned "out of remorse".

He will testify that he

forged the paintings, Drewe, however, maintains that they are genuine.

"His primary motive was to make money, although the effort he put into defrauding those he targeted suggests an intellectual delight in fooling people and a contempt for experts," Mr Bevan said.

Drewe, from Reigate, Surrey, denies three counts of forgery, one of theft, one of false accounting and one of using a false instrument with intent.

He is also charged with co-defendant Daniel Stoakes, aged 52, from Exeter, whom he recruited as an intermedi-

ary, with conspiracy to defraud.

During the trial, which is expected to last three months, the jury will focus on the alleged forgeries of nine works of art purporting to be by Ben Nicholson, Graham Sutherland, Alberto Giacometti, Roger Bissière and De Stael.

Drewe was described by the people he deceived as "polite and well-dressed"; some were impressed by the Bentley he drove.

He adopted a number of different identities to enhance his status - referring to himself at times as professor, doctor, and a nuclear physicist.

He occasionally reverted to the name on his birth certificate, John Cockett.

He went to extraordinary and incredible lengths to persuade people to co-operate with him in his scheme. At one stage he forced a priory of Roman Catholic priests, the Servite Mary Order, to provide him with provenances by threatening them with court action.

On another occasion he recruited an intermediary salesman by telling him he wanted to sell a few paintings from his collection because he wanted "to buy some research archives from Russia to disprove the revisionist theory of the Holocaust".

The bankrupt air-conditioning salesman, "being Jewish, saw it as a worthy cause. He believed he was doing it to help prove the Holocaust really happened".

Opening the case, Mr Bevan told the jury that the richness and variety of the country's works of art formed and important part of its heritage, but modern art was vulnerable to be faked.

"We can all tell a beautiful Rembrandt, but with abstract modern works - which you may think are downright peculiar - it can prove very difficult," he said.

This explained why archival material, giving details of artists' work, was so vital.

"The integrity of this vast collection of archive material is of obvious and central importance to anyone who cares about this nation's heritage," Mr Bevan said.

"Corrupting such material damages not only the individual item corrupted but inevitably undermines and taints the whole system. It affects not only those who deal in works of art, but those who love them and buy them."

When police finally confronted Drewe with what he had done, he insisted he was the victim of a "stitch-up". The case continues.

Clinton set for long haul as right digs in its heels

Martin Kettle in Washington

A MERICA'S political crisis looks set to run deep into next year after Republican party leaders dug in against growing pressure for a censure-based compromise designed to spare Bill Clinton from impeachment proceedings over the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

The White House and its Democratic allies intensified the public and private lobbying yesterday for a quick deal in which Mr Clinton would accept a Congressional "censure-plus" in return for the ending of impeachment proceedings. "If a reasonable deal can be put on the table, he will support it," one Clinton adviser said.

But key Republican opponents of the president poured cold water on such moves.

"For anybody to talk about doing anything before we finish the investigative process simply puts the cart before the horse," said House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich, the man who controls Republican strategy.

Coming the day after the Republican chairman of the House judiciary committee Henry Hyde dubbed talk of a deal "very, very premature", Mr Gingrich signalled his party's intention not to let Mr Clinton and the Democrats off the hook until at least after the November 3 midterm elections, in which the Republicans hope for gains.

Mr Hyde and his committee will meet today to finalise plans for the release of even more material from the Lewinsky investigation submitted to Congress by the independent counsel Kenneth Starr. Under a House resolution of September 11, the committee has until Monday to decide the fate of 16 further boxes of material, including evidence from Ms Lewinsky's confidante Linda Tripp.

Buoyed by supportive comments from South African president Nelson Mandela, who received the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington yesterday, Mr Clinton spent part of yesterday making calls to Capitol Hill Democrats canvassing support for the censure option. "Our morality does not allow us to desert our friends," Mr Mandela told Mr Clinton earlier.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry called censure a "bipartisan idea", but with no apparent Republican support for the proposal, Washington was becoming more partisan by the hour, with Mr McCurry also leading a chorus of Democratic attacks on "those who want this matter to drag on and on and on".

Leading Democrats pressed the Republicans to agree what House minority leader Dick Gephardt described as a "reasonable timetable" for completion of consideration of the Starr Report, which contains 11 possible grounds of impeachment. "There's no earthly reason that we can't set a timetable and get this done with dispatch, fairness and justice," Mr Gephardt said after an acrimonious meeting with Mr Gingrich and Mr Hyde.

As Republicans shifted tack, stressing their constitutional obligations rather than the popular will which they invoked last week, a rightwing Republican member of the judiciary committee, Bob Barr, claimed a timetable would become an excuse for Democratic filibustering. "We did not take an oath of office to do something according to an artificial deadline," he said.

The White House claims to have had productive discussions with Republican grandees including the party's 1996 presidential candidate Senator Bob Dole, former President George Bush and the former Senate Republican leader Howard Baker, who played a pivotal role in the 1974 Watergate crisis.

Mr Dole told Mr Clinton last Friday that he believed censure was "a dead option right now", but added that in the future "there could be windows of opportunity".

Clinton crisis, page 7

Dogs stray into computer age

James Melkie

DOG owners could be forced to have microchip identification tags injected under their pets' skin as part of a scheme being considered by ministers.

The chips would be "read" by supermarket-style scanners linked to details of ownership on a national database.

The scheme's backers believe it could cut the tens of millions of pounds spent annually on catching and housing 120,000 strays. About a fifth are subsequently put down. They argue it would improve animal welfare and ensure owners take responsibility for their pets.

Details came to light as the Government announced support for a change in Britain's tough quarantine laws, in force for almost a century.

Agriculture minister Nick Brown said he was sympathetic to proposals which would allow cats and dogs to travel into Britain from the European Union and specified "rabies-free" countries such as Australia and New Zealand, without having to endure six months in kennels. But owners would have to prove the pets were protected against rabies by vaccination, carried microchip ID, had their blood tested, were de-loused and carried appropriate certificates.

Plans for the wider national microchip scheme, which would cover up to 7 million dogs, have been drawn up by

the Kennel Club and the RSPCA. Labour supported such an idea in opposition, and a spokesman for the Department of the Environment said Alan Meale, the junior minister responsible, was looking at the issue.

About 500,000 animals, mainly dogs and cats, already carry chips. Welfare groups finding homes for abandoned pets often insist on new owners agreeing to them.

Alex Rose, a spokesman for the RSPCA, said: "We want to cut the distress both to the animals and their owners and to cut down on the number of animals that have to be put to sleep each year because no homes can be found."

He added: "The RSPCA often comes across animals abandoned or ill-treated where we cannot identify who owns it, so the person who commits the cruelty gets away with it."

The Government would consider exemptions or lower fees for some groups such as elderly or blind people.

The RSPCA charges £15 per implant, while vets charge up to £25, but the costs could come down with mass usage.

In the quarantine proposals, animals would be identified through scanners at ports and airports. Mr Brown said any system would not be introduced for at least three years. Changes would "provide a level of protection against rabies entering this country which would match that which quarantine gives us now".

Leader comment, page 9

Parents to keep right to smack children despite Euro ruling

continued from page 1
in parental discipline," he said. "Smacking has a place in that. Our law will do nothing to outlaw smacking."

"A line will have to be drawn, but it is a line which will be drawn clearly and firmly in order to underpin parental discipline, not to undermine it."

The shadow health secretary, Ann Widdecombe, said: "Parents have got to be allowed to employ reasonable punishment. If we start to try and over-define and be over-prescriptive, I think we will run into trouble."

The Government plans to issue a consultation paper setting out options for change to

the law on reasonable chastisement. One might be to outlaw physical punishment with an implement, or all physical punishment except smacking.

Peter Carter QC, a criminal law specialist and joint author of a leading text on offences of violence, said it would be difficult to draw a

line. "The sensible thing would be to do what they've done in schools and outlaw physical punishment while allowing physical restraint."

Corporal punishment in state schools has been illegal since 1987. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which received the royal assent in July, extends the

ban to private schools and nursery schools.

The committee on the rights of the child, the international body which oversees implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, recommended three years ago that Britain abolish corporal punishment in all settings, including the

family. Eight European countries prohibit all corporal punishment - Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden - and several others are considering a ban.

A lawyer, Allan Levy QC, said: "Why shouldn't children have the same protection of adults?"



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Full English... Leeds students enjoying a 'brilliant' breakfast at the Merrion Hotel. They also like the TV: 'It's great to sit up all night and watch movies' PHOTOGRAPH: BBC NORTH/GEZELAN

£100 a night billet fit for students

Four-star luxury for 30 waiting to move into new residence hall

Martin Walmsworth

THIRTY students expecting to move into a hall of residence are living a life of luxury in a four-star hotel at £100 a night because builders are still working on their future homes.

The group of freshers and second year students at Leeds University are enjoying fine food, en-suite bathroom, free movie channel and trouser press. With breakfast served until 10am and the campus only a few minutes away, they can even lie in.

Nick Woodrow, aged 18, from Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, said: "It's great to sit up all night and watch the movies. It's better than home."

University housing staff drew a blank with B&Bs and found that only the Merrion Hotel could take the whole group for a week.

Jeff Cantwell, aged 19, a second year economics student from Gloucester, de-

clared the breakfast times "brilliant". Simon Mudd, 19, from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, added: "I can really recommend the breakfast."

Room service round the clock is another feature the group will leave behind at the end of their stay tomorrow, along with tea and coffee-making sets and unlimited stationery for lecture notes. Leeds clubs and pubs, which help to put the student popularity table, are also within easy reach.

The luxury billets — usually £100 a night but taken en bloc at a "substantial discount" according to the university — were hired when surveyors refused to pass rewiring and new plumbing at three converted Victorian houses on Leeds campus.

University spokeswoman Vanessa Bridge said staff did not want students dumped in "run-down, seedy bed and breakfasts, but thought it important to provide them with good, se-

cure accommodation".

The bill will be sent to the contractors whose renovation of the £74,284 a week Springfield Mount residences failed to meet the start-of-term deadline. Ms Bridge said: "We are very disappointed that the contractors did not fulfil the terms of their contract and have made our position clear. I am sure normal business rules will apply, including compensation."

Both the university and the students were anxious to avoid charges of co-opting spoilt youth in luxury.

Second year physiology student Hannah Stringer, aged 18, from Huddersfield, said she could stay in the Merrion forever but added: "I think it's bad for the freshers because they are away from the other new people, and I know I would be scared if I was told I would be staying in a hotel in my first week away."

Their hall life will have the compensations of a pool table, new heating and lavatories, a common room and bar. As for the four-star week, Simon Mudd said: "We haven't had any parties yet, but people have had a bit of a laugh enjoying the facilities."



Temporary digs... 'It's better than home,' was one student's view PHOTOGRAPH: JOAN RUSSELL

Schools to get control of spending

John Carroll
Education Editor

THE Government yesterday announced plans to transfer £1 billion from local education authorities to school budgets, allowing heads and governors to take direct control of building repairs, meals and payroll.

Estelle Morris, school standards minister, said it was the biggest extension of financial powers to state schools since the Conservatives delegated part of the education budget 10 years ago.

From April 2000 schools will be able to open bank accounts, earning interest on income from the state which used to accrue to local authorities.

Many primary schools are expected to buy back services from the council, or sure that LEAs do not retain any more money than absolutely necessary.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers, said: "Schools need new money, not recycled money. The Government's approach ignores the benefits of economies of scale... [It] should be targeting LEA inefficiency, not creating new bureaucratic and administrative burdens for buy-back of central services."

ing will be limited to a narrow range of core services, including school transport, special education needs and support for school improvement. Ms Morris said she would cap council budgets if they planned to spend too much on bureaucracy.

In spite of this threat, the plan got a cautious welcome from the Local Government Association. Graham Lane, its education chairman, said it was a mistake to transfer responsibility for building repairs, but "local authorities will do all that they can to make a success of these plans."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It must be right that schools should make decisions about how their budgets can best be used. Nevertheless, it will still be necessary to make sure that LEAs do not retain any more money than absolutely necessary."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Association of Teachers, said: "Schools need new money, not recycled money. The Government's approach ignores the benefits of economies of scale... [It] should be targeting LEA inefficiency, not creating new bureaucratic and administrative burdens for buy-back of central services."

Diana bodyguard to seek damages

Jon Henley in Paris

TREVOR Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday took the first formal step towards recovering damages from the Ritz Hotel and the Etiole Limousine service by filing a private criminal suit with a Paris court against "those endangering the lives of others".

As required by French law, the suit — which legal experts predict could foreshadow a similar move by Princess Diana's estate — did not name any specific party. But it was clearly targeted at the luxury hotel and the company which supplied the car in which Diana, her companion, Dodi Fayed, and their driver, Henri Paul, died.

Legal sources said the deposition suggested "in no uncertain terms" that both Etiole Limousine and the Ritz, owned by Dodi's father and Mr Rees-Jones's former employer, Mohamed Al Fayed, had committed an offence by failing to provide a licensed driver for the Mercedes 280S sedan which crashed in the Pont de l'Alma underpass on August 31, 1997.

"Essentially what Rees-Jones is doing is suing his former boss," said Jean-Paul Baudouin, a lawyer who has followed the case closely. "But under French law, you sue 'persons unknown' to avoid the risk of being counter-sued for defamation. I am also quite sure this is a move to test the waters on what seems to be a clear-cut offence. If it succeeds, it could well be followed by more from the other parties involved."

Mr Paul, the hotel's acting chief of security, was not licensed to drive a vehicle of the Mercedes category. The suit alleges Etiole Limousine should not have agreed to rent it to the Ritz without also providing a legally qualified driver, nor should the Ritz have accepted it when other companies that could have provided a licensed chauffeur were available.

The offence of endangering the lives of others carries a maximum one year prison sentence and a fine of up to £10,000, but often leads to far larger compensation claims. Lawyers have hesitated to put a figure on awards that may be made, but have pointed out that they are usually lower than in Britain or the United States.

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The Guardian Thursday September 24 1998

To cope with rising 999 load, a paramedic could assess cases or control staff could refer some calls to other agencies, auditors suggest

Ambulance service 'should vet calls'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

AMBULANCE services may be unable to deal with the spiralling number of 999 calls unless they are freed from their obligation to send a vehicle to every reported emergency, the Audit Commission warns today.

Alternatives could include sending a paramedic to assess the case or allowing control staff to refer calls to other agencies, such as community nursing or mental health teams, it says.

The idea is considered dangerous by Roger Thayne, chief executive of Staffordshire ambulance service, singled out by the commission as a model of good practice. "We don't know for sure that somebody doesn't need an ambulance until we get there and look at all aspects of their case," he said.

The commission says in a report, *A Life in the Fast Lane*, that emergency ambulance services in England and Wales cost about £470 million a year. In 1997/98 they responded to more than 3 million 999 calls — a 40 per cent increase since 1990 — and more than 1 million "urgent" calls by GPs. Although most ser-

vices are meeting targets for responding without delay to 999 calls, two-thirds are missing targets for timely response to GPs' calls.

The report says there is some scope for improving efficiency. After allowing for large differences among services by area and population, there remains a 15 per cent variation in the average cost of £85 for each call-out. Rotas could better match availability of ambulances with peaks in demand — increasingly at weekends — and the vehicles could be positioned not at ambulance stations but closer to where most calls are made.

Even so, it is argued, the long term picture looks unsustainable. Geoffrey Rendle, the report's author, said: "Nothing seems to explain the rising demand, but it is putting services under more and more pressure."

The commission is sceptical of attempts to dissuade people from dialling 999 for "trivial" cases, pointing out that previous campaigns have had little impact.

But it says many staff do believe wrongly that they are obliged to take all patients to hospital. In fact they can legally use their discretion to leave at home people found to have superficial or some chronic conditions.

The London Ambulance Service is due in November to start testing a scheme in parts of Barnet, north London, whereby ambulance crews will advise a forecast one in three patients to stay at home, see their GP or community nurse, or go to a minor injuries unit.

Beyond this, though, the commission says the Government should look again at the idea of not sending a fully crewed ambulance automatically to every call. This was rejected in 1996 when "priority dispatch" — deciding which calls should be dealt with first — was introduced.

"An experienced ambulance person working solo could attend appropriate minor emergencies and assess the situation," the report says. The control room could "refer selected calls directly to an agreed alternative agency, such as community nursing or a social services mental health team."

Andrew Foster, the commission's controller, said to cope in the future, emergency ambulance services "could have the flexibility to tailor responses to each situation."

Mr Thayne said there was sufficient scope for improvements to avoid a step that the public would see as a form of rationing.



A crew in Lichfield, Staffordshire, the county with the fastest response times, waits at a 'priority post' in an area of high 999 demand. PHOTOGRAPH: AENE SCOTT

Move to reform waiting lists

Sarah Bosseley, Health Correspondent

PATIENTS needing hospital treatment should be classified according to urgency and told how many weeks they can expect to wait, doctors said yesterday.

The Joint Consultants Committee of the British Medical Association has proposed radical changes in the system to the Health Secretary, Frank

Dobson, because they believe some routine cases take priority over more serious ones simply because of pressure to get waiting lists down.

Patients would benefit by being given a deadline, said Sir Norman Browne, chairman of the committee, since it would alleviate anxiety. The system would also give a more realistic picture of delays around the country.

"The figure of 12 million which is used to bludgeon people doesn't give a correct

indication of how the health service is working," Sir Norman said.

Patients awaiting an operation should be put in one of five categories. Priority would go to emergencies, to be admitted immediately, and urgent, to be admitted within two weeks because delay may lead to complications.

Then would come "soon" — those who must be admitted within three months because their symptoms, social circumstances or the possibility

of getting worse make longer waits unacceptable. Cataract and hip replacement operations should be in this category.

Planned readmissions for follow-ups would be a separate category, to be given a bed within three months of the planned date.

There would be similar targets for obtaining a consultant's opinion. Patients should get the result of an initial diagnosis within two weeks.

Crews wait in most likely places

HAVING an emergency ambulance outside your house in Staffordshire does not necessarily mean bad news. It could be there simply because that is the best place for it to wait, writes David Brindle.

After analysing patterns of all its 999 calls, the county ambulance service last month helped to make response times the fastest in the country.

"I follow the example of the corner shop, which traditionally was open when it

wasn't, in laybys or in car parks. Although the change of approach was not popular with the ambulance crews, who missed the camaraderie of the ambulance station, not to mention its canteen and toilets, it cut running costs by 10 per cent, enabled reinvestment in paramedic training and, most importantly, helped to make response times the fastest in the country."

Staffordshire is also praised in today's Audit Commission report for being the only one of seven services visited by the

auditors to have a clear protocol by which its crews determined which patients may not need taking to hospital.

"Everything is protocol driven," said Mr Thayne. "We lay down precisely how to deal with a cardiac arrest, specifying that you defibrillate (applying an electric current) first and give oxygen second."

"We used to do it the other way round, but it is the speed of defibrillation that is going to save lives."



Theatre regular at West Yorkshire Playhouse

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Audience: 52 per cent average. 100 per cent this week for Berkoff's Villains.

Size: Quarry theatre 750; Courtyard 350.

Director: Jude Kelly.

Tickets: £2.50 - £17.

£1.7 million from regional arts board, Leeds city council and West Yorkshire grants.

Extra programmes: Wordplay literacy scheme; Playhouse Partners; Story Makers and Arts Alive for schools; Schools Touring Company; Heydays for over-55s; Business Circle; Community Alliance — outreach to local groups; Professional Training; Work Experience; new writing schemes.



Sir Ian McKellen: prefers socialist principles of Leeds

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

Audience: 83 per cent over the year 1997/98. 100 per cent this week for Oklahoma!

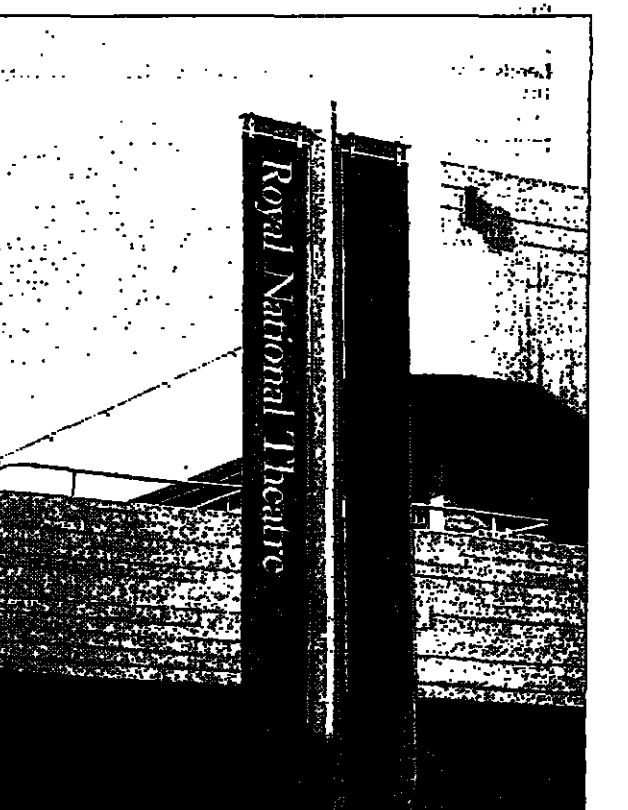
Size: Olivier 1,160 seats; Lyttelton 890; Cottesloe up to 400.

Director: Trevor Nunn.

Tickets: £4.50 - £32.50.

Subsidy: £11.8 million from Arts Council.

Extra programmes: Hamlyn Week (tickets £1-£5); youth workshops; BT National Connections — week-long showcase of 12 plays from youth theatres; Education Department productions to schools and colleges; Primary Shakespeare for London primary schools.



National: 'predominately middle class and white'

Exit North as Sir Ian tires of London's bourgeoisie

Dan Glaister and Martin Wainwright tell a tale of two cities after actor decides to quit National for Playhouse in Leeds

IT WAS the highbrow counter to Richard and Judy's decision to take their breakfast show sofa from Liverpool to London.

Sir Ian McKellen, one of the elite of British theatre who can command an audience in both Hollywood and the West End, has decided to stop in Leeds for seven months, where he will appear in a programme at the West York-

shire Playhouse in Leeds.

His decision, he said, was motivated by his attachment to the socialist principles of life in Leeds and his distaste for the white, middle class audiences to be found at the last theatrical post, the Royal National Theatre in London.

"Who are you playing to at the Olivier Theatre?" he asked. "Do they speak the language? At Oklahoma! there

wasn't a black face in the audience. That's an odd thing in London at this time."

One former director of the National, who does his own thing, said Sir Richard Eyre. "They were consciously people having a pretty good time."

"It is fantastically sentimental. Why does he imagine the Leeds bourgeoisie is hugely different from the London bourgeoisie? I don't know why he has to dump on London in order to justify his emigration. Is it such a massive act of martyrdom to go to Leeds?"

But the National yesterday held up its hands and admitted the errors of its ways. "We are acutely aware that our audience is predominantly middle class and white," said a spokeswoman. "It's grown up that way. Most of our audience is regular and is part of a mailing list."

The average age of the list, she suggested, was 78. "It's quite scary. But it does cost a lot more to reach a new audience member than it does to reach a regular theatre-goer. It all comes back to a question of finance, but at least [Culture Secretary] Chris Smith does acknowledge that with-

out investing in it you're not going to be able to reach a new audience."

Mr Smith, this week announced a £150,000 grant to the National, as part of the Arts Council's £5 million New Audiences Fund.

While staff at the National were involved in soul-searching, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse an over-55s debating society was sorting out media sex coverage, craft groups were making bobbin lace, and two Leeds accountants were investigating the Business Circle deal for corporate entertainment.

"You don't have to sit here

long to see the whole world go by," said Kate Sanderson, the theatre's marketing manager. The whole world does not mean middle class Leeds; the box office has sheets of £2.50 tickets subsidised by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and targeted at the other, low income side of town.

That initiative, and the over-55s weekly Heydays session on Wednesday, which has 900 members paying a bargain £8 a year, are part of the "old socialist principles" which Sir Ian contrasted with the London stage's allegedly soulless, tourist-based approach.

"We try to be part of everything going in Leeds," says head of development Lisa Kell, who plans the Playhouse into groups like the Leeds Initiative — a city sorting-house for creative ideas.

The Playhouse's charismatic director, Jude Kelly, also bolts up everywhere — losing her to London is more feared in Leeds even than the prospect of George Graham heading for Spurs.

Standing beside Sir Ian at the this week's season launch, she raised the theatre's central dilemma: how — and if — the building's palpable buzz can be reconciled to long term

financial comfort. Balanced books have not been a Playhouse feature, but an Arts Council deal last year to write off the building's debts brought "stabilisation". Ms Kelly promptly posed the question: "But can we be stable and exciting?"

Despite the spat, there were no hard feelings between the National and Sir Ian, who last year appeared there as Captain Hook in Peter Pan.

"We look forward to him working here again," said the National's spokeswoman. "And anyway, we can't say too much because he's a member of the board."

We need to stop favouring the middle class with forward planners

Comment

Michael Billington

CRITICS know little about audiences: we only go to first nights. But when Ian McKellen threatens to quit the London stage for good because of the monochrome nature of the au-

dience, I am sympathetic. Go to the theatre in Leeds, Sheffield or Birmingham and you find a diverse mix of ages, classes and backgrounds. Go to a big institution like the National and you tend to see the middle class, mailing list audience that is the backbone of what Ken Campbell once called "brochure theatre".

In one way, the difference is inescapable. A big regional theatre, like a football club but unlike the National, is an expression of civic identity. But McKellen's observations conceal an extraordinary shift in audience patterns in the capital.

Once upon a time the West End was the natural home of

the middle-aged, culturally conservative audience, and the big subsidised companies, like the National and the RSC, the place for the adventurous theatre-goer. What we seem to be witnessing at the moment, however, is an extraordinary reversal of roles.

This is not just my observation, but that of David Hare, too. "When I was at the National," he said, "the greying of the audience seemed the most serious problem. I couldn't see why when we took, say, Amy's View, to the West End the audience age was dropping by 25 to 30 years."

"It just seemed to me unhealthy and a problem we had to attack. Subsidised theatre,

because of those bloody car parks, has become more and more bourgeois in whom it attracts, whereas the West End gets the young crowd."

Why should this be? It may have something to do with patterns of social behaviour. Anyone who strolls round Soho or Covent Garden at night will see that it teems with bars and cafes packed not just with tourists but with the affluent young. But the South Bank, even with the NFT's new pavement cafe, remains a joyless area with little ancillary life outside the cultural complexes.

But I suspect the audience reversal that Hare refers to is also tied up with what is on

offer. Nica Burns, production director at Stoll Moss Theatres, has made a conscious effort to woo young audiences by showcasing plays that attract them. At one point, Shopping and Fucking, Popcorn, and Closser (which, ironically, hails from the National), were, all three, on side by side in Shaftesbury Avenue — unthinkable in the dear, dead days of the matinee.

I do not want to belabour the National, where paranoia runs high, but a theatre that offers as its summer fare Old Times and The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie is hardly likely to run the risk of attracting the radical young. Ideally, one wants an all-embracing

theatre, one that, as Jude Kelly who runs the West Yorkshire Playhouse says, "involves everyone from schools to businesses".

The problem with the National is that, for all its regional touring and educational work, it can still be seen as an exclusive institution. I often quote the example of my postman who asked me if he would enjoy a production of The Homecoming, which he had read about. I recommended it highly and told him it was on at the National.

There was a brief Pinterish pause before he asked "Can anyone go?"

Theatres everywhere — not just the National — have to

break down the perception they are a middle class club. Which is why I welcome the initiative, just launched by the Arts Council, of a New Audiences programme financed by a £5 million grant from Chris Smith's Department of Culture. The various schemes include taking "laster" events into Friday night clubs and setting up "ArtsTaxis" for people in rural areas who face transport difficulties. All this is to the good.

But when McKellen laments the absence of any black faces in the National audience, he touches on an even bigger social issue — the extent to which the whole system of expensive advance booking lim-

its the audience for culture and sport in Britain.

I once asked the same question, but at an England versus West Indies Test match at Lord's. I was told by the handful of black spectators there that most people in their community resided buying tickets six months ahead.

Maybe the moral is that we do not just need new audiences for arts and sporting events; we need to allow more room for impulse purchases and we need to break down the booking system that favours privileged middle class whites using forward planners.

Michael Billington is the Guardian's theatre critic.

ools to control pending

bodyguard k damages

Magnet

167 migrants in boat for 10

Helena Smith in Athens

THE trade in human misery resurfaced off Crete yesterday when 167 Iraqi Kurds were found packed into a small fishing vessel seized by police as smugglers prepared to put them ashore at a remote bay on south-east Crete.

The Greek coast guard said it was a miracle that the illegal migrants, who included some 30 children, had survived five days below deck in what one official described as

"the most inhumane sight" he had ever seen. On the 9th boat — whose capacity was meant to be 10 people — the crowding was such that many children had been half-crushed beneath adults since the group started out from Lebanon last Friday. Last night, injured passengers were recovering in hospital in the Cretan capital, Heraklion, where most of the group had been taken to an immigration centre.

"It was the most inhumane sight I have ever seen, 167 men, women and children packed like sardines on a traditional fishing vessel," said Georgios Perrakis, who heads the island's coast guard. "When we found them they were as good as dead."

The passengers said they had been given nothing to drink or eat since setting sail. One immigrant, an elderly man, said the conditions had been so appalling that one woman, about eight months pregnant, suffered a miscarriage and flung the foetus into the sea.

"For a time," he said, "she hugged it in a blanket but when people started finding it difficult to even breathe, she threw it overboard," he told Greek television. "When we got on the boat we thought we were going to a better world."

The Kurds said that they paid \$3,000 (£1,800) each for the passage to Europe. The smuggling organisation had initially been contacted in Turkey.

The boat's four Lebanese crewmen were charged yesterday not only with illegal trafficking but also with endangering the lives of their passengers. One police officer said he expected the accused, who are now in jail pending trial, to face especially stiff sentences if convicted. "They will not be treated lightly," he said. "This is an appalling example of the extent to which these smugglers are prepared to go."

Greece, like other Mediterranean countries, has been besieged by impoverished illegal migrants in recent years. With the longest coastline in Europe — 10,000 miles — and hundreds of small islands, the country is finding it almost impossible to stop the flow, despite concerted efforts to do so.

"Our coastline is practically impossible to control," said Mr Perrakis. "We've got new high-speed launches and lots more specially trained men out on the high seas, and these smugglers still keep coming in."



Germany decides

'Don't knows' urged to dump Kohl

Ian Traynor in Trier

WARNING that in its campaign to curb unemployment a new centre-left German government would not be blackmailed by business, Gerhard Schröder went to Germany's oldest city last night in a final attempt to marshal support to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Sunday's election.

On a glorious late-summer evening with Trier's Roman Porta Nigra as his backdrop, the Social Democratic challenger shouted himself hoarse trying to persuade waverers in what promises to be a very close national poll.

Around 1,000 people from the ancient city on the River Mosel by the French border listened attentively to every word of Mr Schröder's standard 40-minute hustings

speech, which concentrates on denouncing Mr Kohl as the "chancellor of unemployment" and promoting a "fairer and more modern" Germany. Mr Schröder's pitch aims to move beyond the traditional Social Democratic vote to capture the "New Centre".

In the final days of a campaign in which the opinion polls put the Social Democrats slightly ahead — despite their having frittered away a 12-point lead over the past six months — Mr Schröder, aged

54, is also trying to turn Sunday's election into a straight choice between himself and Mr Kohl, aged 68. The strategy works for some. "He didn't impress me very much," said Marion Rutz, a 19-year-old student. "But we need a breath of fresh air. Kohl has been chancellor for 16 years... We need a new man. It doesn't matter which party it is."

Peter Kinzig, aged 49, who runs a Trier tiling firm, agreed with Mr Schröder's central pitch that Mr Kohl's time was up. But Mr Kinzig still intended to vote for Mr Kohl and his Christian Democratic Union. "Nothing much will change, no matter who wins, and it's time Kohl went. I think Schröder will win, but I'm still voting for Kohl because I prefer the CDU and its policies."

Mr Schröder maintains that the SPD has fought its best campaign since Willy Brandt became Germany's first Social Democratic chancellor in

1972, and radiates cautious confidence. Striking coalitions is a necessity in the German system, but Mr Schröder refuses to be drawn on whether he would prefer a centre-left alliance with the environmentalist Greens as junior partner, or a so-called "grand coalition" with the post-Kohl Christian Democrats.

"When if not now, where if not here, who if not me?" he asked the throng. "Germany cannot afford another four



Side by side on posters in Berlin, Gerhard Schröder (right) and the man whose job he wants after Sunday's poll, Chancellor Kohl. PHOTOGRAPH: FABRIZIO BENSCH

French fury at couples' law

Jon Henley in Paris

TO THE FURY of conservatives and the Roman Catholic Church, France's Socialist-led government began pushing a bill through the national assembly yesterday to give legal recognition to unmarried couples. Opponents say it effectively sanctions gay marriages.

The "civil solidarity pact" presented to the assembly's legal committee, and scheduled for full debate in the lower house early next month, will allow any two people who have lived together for two years, whether or not they are involved in a romantic relationship, to enjoy most of the social and fiscal rights now enjoyed only by married couples.

Saying it was "proud to be introducing such advanced legislation", the government

Rape report shocks Italy

John Hooper in Rome

ONE Italian woman in every 25 has been raped or sexually attacked, a report said yesterday.

Some 20,000 women aged between 14 and 59 were interviewed for a survey, commissioned by the government's statistical office. Its main finding was that the existing figures were useless, because

more than 80 per cent of victims said they had not reported the crime to the police. In the case of attempted rapes, the figure was almost 99 per cent.

The anthropologist Ida Magli, a social commentator, said: "It confirms what I have been saying for years — that we need to start to study men. Males are by nature aggressive and don't even know they are."

Half of those interviewed complained of problems ranging from obscene telephone calls to sexual blackmail by an employer or superior. Physical harassment was common, with public transport the main danger area.

The biggest category of attacks were "friends", but Italian women are at high risk from strangers. A fifth of rapes and sex attacks, and almost a third of those in major cities, were by men unknown to the victims.

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The Clinton crisis

"Oppression begins whenever a power, whatever it is, intrudes into an individual's private space and personal affairs."

Anthony Hopkins, Gerard Depardieu, Vanessa Redgrave, Emma Thompson, Jeanne Moreau, Günter Grass, Peter Gabriel, Yehudi Menuhin



Linda Tripp (above left), who triggered the sex scandal, is under investigation herself, while Bill Clinton gets support from Nelson Mandela and other leaders PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH FREEMAN

New dirt clings to Linda Tripp

Mark Tran in Washington

THE latest documents to emerge from the evidence taken by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating President Clinton, not only reinforce Linda Tripp's reputation as a backstabber but also raise questions about her credibility.

Despite Ms Tripp's role in exposing the sexual relationship between her friend Monica Lewinsky and Mr Clinton, the report Mr Starr submitted to Congress — about whether the president committed crimes including perjury in trying to conceal the liaison — makes little mention of Ms Tripp.

This is partly because Ms Lewinsky is the star witness. But the Starr team has its own reasons to be circum-

spect, because of suspicions that Ms Tripp lied about her handling of tape recordings she made of telephone conversations she had with Ms Lewinsky.

The independent counsel is investigating whether Ms Tripp was telling the truth when she told his prosecution team that she had not altered or made any copies of the dozens of tapes she turned over to Mr Starr.

The transcript of the Tripp tapes and her testimony to a grand jury in the Starr inquiry are part of at least 16 boxes of material the House of Representatives' judiciary committee is expected to release next week.

Mr Starr's office said on Monday: "If Ms Tripp duplicated any tapes herself or knew of their duplication, then she has lied under oath

before the grand jury and in her deposition. The OIC [office of the independent counsel] continues to investigate this matter." For seven tapes that "contain audible conversations and which exhibit signs of duplication, the office of the independent counsel cannot exclude the possibility of tampering".

President Clinton certainly felt he was a victim of Ms Tripp's scheming. During his grand jury testimony in August, he kept voicing his suspicion that she was responsible for feeding information about Ms Lewinsky to lawyers representing Paula Jones, an Arkansas woman who tried unsuccessfully to sue Mr Clinton for sexual harassment.

Explaining his surprise when the Jones lawyers started questioning him in

January this year about Ms Lewinsky, Mr Clinton said: "It was obvious to me by this point ... that they had — these people had — access to a lot of information from somewhere, and I presume it came from Linda Tripp."

Ms Tripp, who worked at the White House for President Bush and President Clinton, before being transferred to the Pentagon, has not surfaced since she made an emotional appearance on the courthouse steps in Washington after her grand jury testimony in July.

She said then she was "an average American ... vilified for taking the path of truth". But the new information in the Starr documents has done little to dispel her reputation as a woman who betrayed a friend.

"She is the most hated per-

son I've ever seen in my life," said Bruce Fisher, an Internet entrepreneur who runs a Linda Tripp website and reads the email sent in about her.

It was Ms Tripp, according to Ms Lewinsky's grand jury testimony, who urged her not to clean the semen-stained blue dress that proved a sexual relationship between the former White House intern and Mr Clinton.

Most fundamentally, Ms Tripp was the trigger for Mr Starr's investigation into Mr Clinton's relationship with

Ms Lewinsky and the alleged cover-up that followed. According to the Starr report, Ms Tripp came forward in January with information that the president's friend, Vernon Jordan, was helping Ms Lewinsky find a job in exchange for her silence on her affair with the president, after Ms Lewinsky was called as a witness in the Paula Jones case.

Armed with this information, Mr Starr asked the attorney-general, Janet Reno, for permission to expand his in-

vestigation, which was meant to inquire into Whitewater, a failed property development in which the Clintons had invested in Arkansas.

But in her grand jury testimony, Ms Lewinsky said she had lied when she informed Ms Tripp that she told Mr Jordan she would not sign an affidavit denying an affair with the president until Mr Jordan had found her a job. If Ms Lewinsky's testimony is true, Mr Starr launched his investigation into the Clinton-Lewinsky relationship on the

basis of false information provided by Ms Tripp.

After passing on this information, Ms Tripp then kept urging Ms Lewinsky not to sign an affidavit in the Paula Jones case denying she had had an affair with Mr Clinton — until the president's friends helped her find a job, advice that can be construed as setting a trap for the president.

Ms Tripp came as a godsend to Mr Starr, who had made little headway on Whitewater and other issues.

Torment of an unimpeachable man tied by the thongs of obsession

Maureen Dowd in Washington

HE COULDN'T stop thinking about the thong underwear. He couldn't believe Monica had pulled up her jacket to show it off. It so inflamed his imagination. At meetings, at briefings, at the most unlikely times, his mind suddenly reverted to the image of those straps, quickening his pulse, making him catch his breath.

But it was the cigar that undid him. He was driven by the thought of what had been done with it. Suddenly the capital became a city of cigars. He saw them wherever he went. They ignited his desire. When he was alone or talking to other people, he took secret pleasure in letting smoke rings drift through his mind. At times he feared that he might be a sex addict. He couldn't stop thinking of Monica: what she wore, when she wore it, where she wore or didn't wear it. Her little letters were so brazen, promising such wild pleasure. Everything she scribbled, every gift she gave, mesmerised him.

Then there was the power her voice had over him. He knew that he was entering the dangerous territory of obsession. No matter how much he heard Monica talk about sex, it was never enough.

He was a busy man. A powerful man. A serious man. But there were times when all he could remember were the sizzling phone conversations. They filled

Sometimes he feared he was abusing his power... Would the presidency survive his lust? It didn't matter

his head like a drug. People warned him that he was endangering his legacy.

Friends and strangers tried to pull him back from the brink of his single-mindedness. But it was too late. He had become the helpless victim of his craving for ecstasy.

The big picture was lost. He hanged only for the details, all the stirring and seamy particulars.

Nothing was too small or insignificant for him to consider, to turn over and over

in his unappeasable mind. He wanted to think about her eating cherry chocolates. He imagined her wrapped up like Cleopatra in the Rockettes blanket or panting in that Black Dog T-shirt. He kept seeing her in that blue Gap dress. It was too tight, and he was glad. Again and again he was visited by images of a man's roving lips. He knew it was wrong. But he liked

to dip into sin. He needed a release from all the pressure, from the extraordinary responsibilities of a very public man.

When he went to church on Sundays he wrestled with his conscience. He even wondered if he needed professional help.

Sometimes he feared that he was abusing his power and hurting the country. He even fretted that the constitution itself might be damaged by his obsession.

And sometimes it wasn't

easy to behold all the human damage that he already had caused: ruining a young woman's life, dragging all sorts of people through the muck, wounding reputations and bankrupting those who came near him.

Would the presidency survive his lust? It didn't matter.

Every time he heard those words — inappropriate intimate contact, sex of any kind in any manner, shape or form, arousing or gratifying as defined in definition 1 — he felt a fire burn.

He knew how strong he was. He was the most powerful man in the land. He could reach into every recess of the government to satisfy himself. And the prospect of impeachment didn't frighten him.

In fact, the more he became fixated on the strap of that thong, the more certain he was that he could hang Bill Clinton with it. And, of all those naughty words he loved to hear, none filled him with more pleasure than "impeachment".

After all, nobody could impeach him. He was Ken Starr. — *New York Times*.

Stars in plea to save president

Jon Henley in Paris

THE world's leading actors, writers and intellectuals came out in support of President Clinton yesterday. They said he was being subjected to "unjustified harassment by a fanatical prosecutor with unlimited power".

A list of 67 names signed a statement, published in the influential French daily Le Monde. They included Sir Anthony Hopkins, Gerard Depardieu, Vanessa Redgrave,

Jeanne Moreau and Emma Thompson. The writers William Styron, Carlos Fuentes, Günter Grass and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, also signed, along with Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu and rock singer Peter Gabriel.

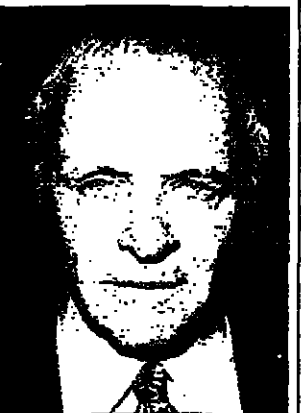
The statement, organised by Jack Lang, chairman of the French parliament's foreign affairs committee, appealed to the American people to back the president.

It said that independent counsel Kenneth Starr's "arbitrary and unfair procedures must not have the upper

hand. Victory in America over this prosecutor will be victory for those across the world who support the principles of freedom".

And it added: "Oppression begins whenever a power, whatever it is, intrudes into an individual's private space and personal affairs."

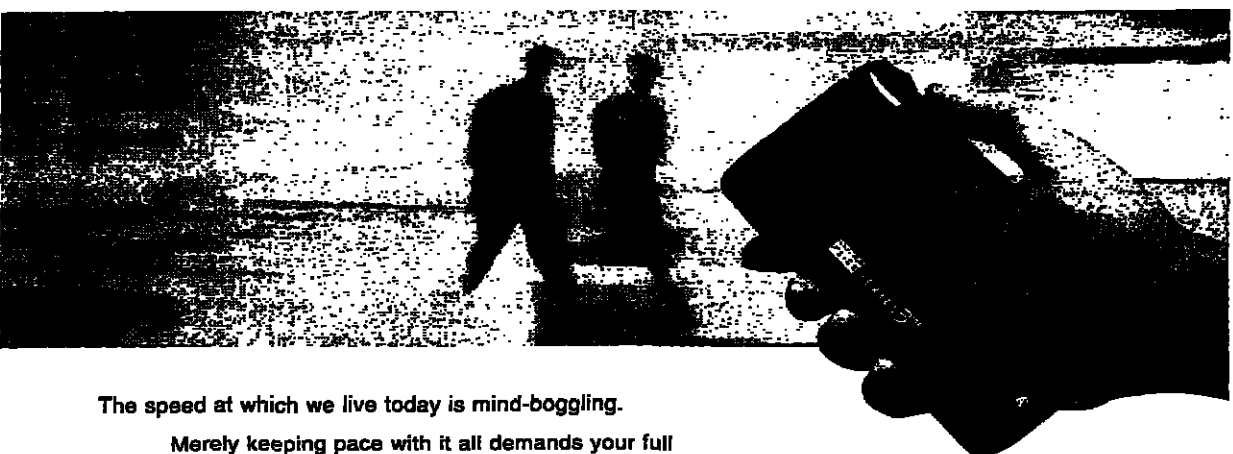
Film-makers Robert Altman, John Boorman, Wim Wenders, David Putnam and Costa Gavras added their names to the appeal, as did musicians and entertainers such as Yehudi Menuhin and Art Garfunkel.



Hopkins attacks power of 'fanatical prosecutor'

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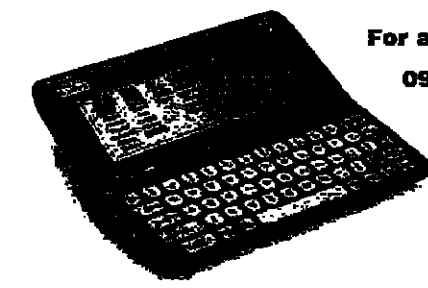
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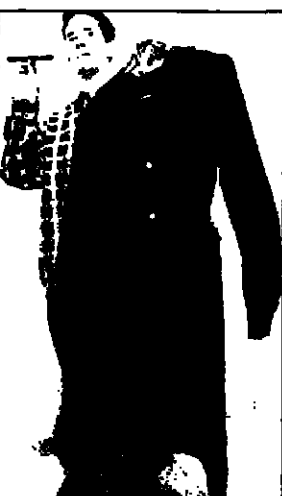
Diary

Matthew Norman

None of its more distinctive U-turns since the *Asco* over Scottish devolution, New Labour has rescinded its conference ban on Red Pepper. The left-wing magazine was barred, you will recall, because Euro MP Hugh Kerr heckled Gordon Brown at the Scottish conference while working for the magazine. However, chief press officer Adrian McMenamin, has intervened, and a pass will await editor Hilary Wainwright in Blackpool on Saturday. Whether Mr McMenamin could no longer resist the democratic instinct that so defines the party, or whether the publicity was getting on his nerves, who can say for sure?

CONCERNS grow for the mental wellbeing of Bernard Ingham. While still refusing all approaches to become *Diary* Astrologer, he continues to correspond with Psychic Smith, the *Sunday Telegraph* magazine's much-admired star-gazer. "Bernard Ingham has sent me an interesting interpretation of the Aquarian night sky this week," writes Smith, "complete with graphs and illustrations—and on Snoopy notepaper too! Thank you Bernard. Your input is always valuable—if a little incomprehensible." Oh dear.

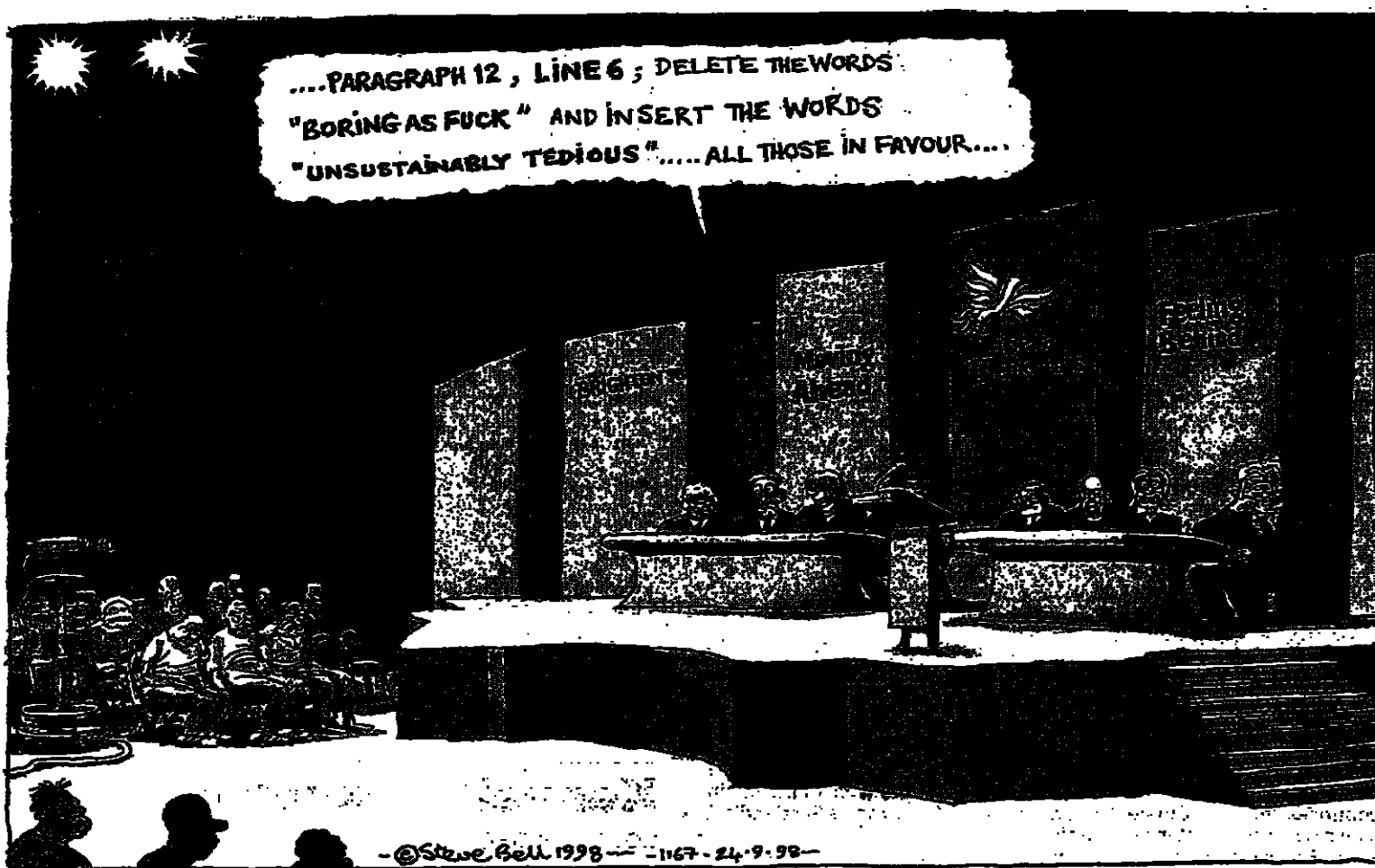
ARELY a week after the Sun gave away Geri Spice's Union Jack dress, the *Diary* goes one better with what must be the most spectacular competition in modern newspaper history. Behold, my colleague Simon Bowers holding a replica of Monty's dress, created for us at great speed and expense by a leading seamstress, and a fine Cuban cigar. The gown is first prize in our Spot the Stain competition, with the cigar going to the runner-up. Later today, my friend Michael Winner will place a pin (there is such a thing, after all, as overdoing the authenticity) somewhere on the garment, which he will then deposit in his safe. All you have to do is put a cross where you think that stain might be. Only one cross, either red or blue, is allowed, entries to arrive, by post, by midday on Monday, October 5. The winner and runner up will then be invited to make an all-expenses-paid trip to Michael's house in west London, to be placed in charge of collecting their prizes from him. Good luck to you all.



Employees of the Guardian Media Group, and other friends, relatives or agents are not permitted to take part. In the event of a tie, the editor's decision will be final.

TWO weeks after she starred in a *Dispatches* film about her brief time at the Independent, I am intrigued by a sighting of Rizla Rosie Boycott. The Express editor was spotted having lunch last week in a London restaurant with the documentary maker Nick Broomfield, whose recent Channel 4 programme *Fetishes* recorded the activities of a group of dominatrices and their clients in New York. Another documentary for Rosie, or an imminent change of career? We shall have to wait and see.

PEACE has been made with inaugural *Diary* sponsor Tefal, who have now sent us the £37.99 Vitessé Kettle in apricot with terracotta splashes, as originally agreed. (No decision has been reached about whether to return the white one with lilac handles, which retails at £24.99.) The electrical lead is still deviously short, but let's not mean: Tefal, it was good doing business with you. There will be news of a new sponsor tomorrow.



Paddy's party want reforms. But they won't crusade for a coalition

Hugo Young



WHEN Paddy Ashdown speaks today, he has the hardest task he ever faced. He must persuade his party, and the country beyond, what his project is really all about. This may seem a perverse burden to place upon him. Shouldn't he, as a reformer, be seen to lead the charge? Isn't it obvious? Haven't the Liberals been preaching democratic fairness for decades? Isn't Lord Jenkins about to produce a plan that Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown have secretly godfathered? And then won't there be a referendum? How could anyone at Brighton need to be persuaded of the merits of all this?

All these questions, however, carry more edge and resonance now than a few weeks ago. The party conference has sharpened doubts about every one of them. It has, admittedly, seen one piece of progress. The Liberals' fascination with particular voting systems and their rage for pure proportionality have much abated. Any half-decent system Jenkins recommends will probably satisfy the great majority. But the political problems surrounding reform loom much larger.

Of these items, the greatest

deterrent is the last. If the voters do not want PR, they should not have it. If the Prime Minister cannot be pretty certain that any referendum campaign he supported would be won, he will naturally hesitate to hold one. Deliberate, at least, about seeking a referendum. It would certainly be a very difficult decision. At this climactic moment, with reform beckoning, one would expect nothing else. Yet the moment has another consequence. Imagining an imminent referendum, one is soon aware that the abstract must urgently become concrete. If the country is put to the question, it needs to know what great virtues reform would bring to the media and exercise of government. It needs to hear not just the usual trotting-out about pluralism and consensus and multi-party systems, as if these were axiomatic goods, but a frontal case made for what reform is intended and almost certain to produce: coalition government.

A PARTY conference is the hardest place to make that case. The coalition prospect involves the naming of raw party. It is, in a sense, anti-party, certainly anti the triumphalism of which even the Lib Dem party conference is an unthinking repository. The party is false party is the party, and nobody this week has been heard to exalt the virtues of its only plausible coalition partner, Tony Blair. Even among those few Lib Dem politicians who sincerely look forward to a role in a Blairite coalition, none advance the case in public.

None, even, make much of a list of talking about how coalition works: how it requires

to be deliberated, different opinions to be accommodated; how, in short, the traditional British model of government, in which decisiveness and strength are the supreme virtues, needs to be taken apart and reassembled. Though Lib Dems and Labour work together in many local councils, there's a certain hesitancy about admitting what this means, or discussing it on any other presumption than as the staging-post to an ultimate Lib Dem triumph next time round.

If Paddy Ashdown is serious about his project, he needs to start his referendum campaign today. Persuading the British people there's a better way of government will be a long haul, and it has not even begun. Overcoming the indifference of the voters requires a crusade, for which the very grammar has yet to be laid out. Ashdown's challenge is to find a new language that redefines strong government, and explains to his party the ways in which it, like the others, will have to start thinking of itself as something different from the exclusive, power-hungry, winner-take-all entity lodged deep in the way the British psyche addresses politics.

It sounds improbable. Too few Lib Dems really understand what voting reform means. If Ashdown tells them the full story, they won't accept it. They want reform, but won't crusade for coalition. Yet unless the case is made, the present system won't be overturned. First-past-the-post won't fall to a series of abstractions: nor to a case whose underlying purpose is to dish the Tories. The argument needs to be more radical and will take longer than a swift referendum to prosecute. As Blair, I suspect, has other reasons to understand.

Groups such as Tesco don't create jobs, they destroy them

Superstores for suckers

George Monbiot



TESCO'S announcement this week that it will create 10,000 new jobs was greeted with rapture by a workforce shivering at the prospect of global recession. The chain was extolled by the Guardian yesterday as a good employer, as it pays higher wages than most other shops. It has been praised by this government and its predecessor as a beacon of free enterprise. British shoppers honour it as their champion, battling on their behalf with Adidas and Calvin Klein.

There are several words for people like us: suckers is perhaps the most polite. For Tesco's business, in common with that of the other superstores, is the business not of generation, but of displacement. It doesn't create jobs, it destroys them. A National Retail Planning Forum report shows that a new superstore costs, on average, a net 270 local jobs, as independent grocers, village shops, newsagents and milk rounds close down.

Tesco creates neither choice nor convenience, but merely concentrates them, laying waste to the diversity of social and economic life outside the store, shattering community, cluttering our streets with traffic. It relies for its expansion not upon nimble enterprise, but upon the ponderous might of political influence and regional control. Like a super-gravitational black hole, it sucks in and compacts the worlds that lie beyond it.

No commercial sector is better represented than the superstores. Lord Sainsbury is a minister at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which sets the terms by which business in Britain is allowed to proceed. Archie Norman, the head of Asda, is deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. Ian McLaurin, Tesco's former chief executive, sits in the House of Lords. So too, if she dares to show her face, does the heiress to the chain, the disgraced former leader of Westminster Council, Dame Shirley Fortie. Executives from Tesco inhabit six government task forces, including the DTI's Competitiveness Advisory Group.

THE superstores enjoy a remarkable immunity from the laws by which we lesser mortals have to live. Over the past four years, they have been able to ignore and then to remove Sunday trad-

ing laws, restrictions on opening hours, the Net Book Agreement and the chemists' Retail Price Maintenance. Two months ago, the superstores' lobbying prevented the Integrated Transport White Paper from proposing that their car parks be taxed.

Yesterday, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), which is supervised by the DTI, published a report suggesting that no new laws were required to address the extraordinary control the superstores exert over their suppliers. Despite driving farmers and manufacturers out of business by forcing them into restrictive contracts and then paying less than the price of production for their goods, British superstores still manage to charge 40 per cent more to their customers than stores on the Continent, with the result that they make three times as much money. As control over their suppliers was to have been the main theme of the OFT's inquiry into the superstores' profits, it looks as if they will yet again be let off the hook. Two earlier "investigations" by the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concluded that the superstores' market dominance, predatory pricing and uncompetitive practices, while wiping out small shops, posed no threat either to healthy competition or to the wider public interest.

When John Gummer announced that there would be no more out-of-town superstores, it looked as if their power would be curbed. In truth, the ruling has achieved precisely the opposite, which was surely why it was allowed to happen. While Tesco, Sainsbury and the others had already lined up enough plan-

They are wiping out small shops, and shattering communities

ning consents to keep expanding for years to come, the door was conveniently slammed shut on the contrary war-horses trying to enter the market. Even so, the British superstores are shrugging off these restrictions as blithely as they have disposed of all the others. Now, as Tesco links up with Esso, and Sainsbury develops its relationship with BP, the superstores have discovered in the petrol stations a new and largely unregulated frontier of out-of-town development.

The end-game is already being played. Having crippled allowing them to stock its own products. Having helped create "food deserts" in Britain's poorest places, Tesco has the government's blessing to move back into the urban areas. The superstores tell us that their expansion is all about choice. What choice would that be, exactly?

Secretive deals with the pharmaceutical companies have been flooding the NHS with costly pills for 40 years. Until Viagra stopped it

Drug pushers

Joe Collier

IT is rare that I get excited about changes in government policy, but this week's announcement of the demise of the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) had me rejoicing all the way to work.

At last, an end to an anachronistic arrangement that for decades has hampered the way the NHS delivered health. Now we can concentrate on the real purpose of the service—to provide patients with best treatment without fear or favour.

The PPRS was devised in 1956 as a mechanism for controlling the price the NHS paid for its medicines. The deal struck then, which has changed little since, followed negotiations between government and the pharmaceutical industry and the

ingenuity of the industry was clearly the greater. The scheme relied on a secretive arrangement between health ministers and individual drug companies in which the prices set for drugs were to be "reasonable" for the health service and yet sufficient to "sponsor" the UK pharmaceutical industry.

Inevitably, ministers were faced with a conflict of interest and it has become increasingly obvious that the scheme tilted in favour of the health of the industry rather than the health of patients.

Problems have arisen not so much from the prices the NHS pays for the drugs (UK prices are probably just below the mean for the EU), but because the scheme has prevented the NHS from having a free hand in determining policies on drug usage. For years companies were left to determine UK

prescribing practice as it was through their sales that the agreed (and generous) profit targets could accrue. Companies worked to engender a culture that drugs were the answer to illness and, because of the PPRS, health ministers could not effectively oppose this line. For years the cost

Drug companies engendered a culture that drugs were the answer

of every drug prescribed on the NHS was met without question. Until the recent blanket ban on Viagra prescribing, the idea of some limitation emanating from the Department of Health (DoH) was unthinkable. This position went almost

unnoticed till the mid 1980s, partly because no one really knew what was going on. The secretiveness of the PPRS did raise anxiety among some critics, who could not discover the working details of the scheme and so, for instance, how the profit margins for any company were calculated, or allowances made.

But ultimately it was the movement towards evidence-based medicine, coupled with a strong wish by the DoH to offer leadership in health policy, a commitment to equality of service delivery, that made the PPRS untenable.

It will not be possible, for example, for the NHS to develop centralised policy on best practice, as is the brief of the new National Institute of Clinical Excellence, when choices are manipulated primarily to meet company profit. Something has to give and the govern-



ment has rightly (and some would say bravely) decided it will be the PPRS. Now, the first step is to transfer government sponsorship of UK drug companies from the DoH to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The next is to devise mechanisms that offer manufacturers a stable environment in which partnerships are not based on secret deals. The UK balance of payments on medicines and our record on introducing new products is very healthy. It would make good commercial sense to mean that the prices paid by the NHS for individual drugs will rise. However, if this offers better health the deal will have been worthwhile.

My preference would be an arrangement in line with the scheme proposed by the Commons Health Select Committee in 1994.

Companies would set prices when their drugs were launched and the NHS would publish an initial assessment of the (added) health value offered by the product. Prescribing on the NHS would be permitted by doctors as they felt fit and in keeping with local policy. After say three or five years, the NHS would analyse all clinical trial data and decide whether the product would continue to be provided "free" on prescription. The basis for any approval would be published, as would advice on how best to use the medicine. Decisions and advice would be reviewed at least every five years.

Freed of the PPRS, policy on drug provision could be open and unfettered, a position that has been impossible for 40 years. What relief!

Joe Collier edits the *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*

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'All I ask is that we present ourselves with more humour and self-awareness'
John o' Farrell, Letters

The rage of the markets

Now it is time to rebuild

AS SO OFTEN, it has taken the prospect of a serious international crisis to goad the world's leaders into recognising that something has to be done about the consequences of unfettered free markets. Britain and the US now seem committed to a restructuring of the post-war Bretton Woods regime (the IMF and the World Bank) to cope with globalised financial markets that are running — systematically — out of control. Whether the world's leaders, including destabilised administrations in Russia, Japan and the US, are up to the job at the moment is a moot point. The world's leaders can talk about changing the emphasis of economic policy from inflation to growth but most of them have established independent central banks that won't be dictated to on subjects like reducing interest rates. An enfeebled President Clinton has failed to persuade a hostile Republican congress to vote desperately needed new resources for the IMF, while Russia seems poised to turn the clock back on economic reform.

Yesterday two international institutions quantified some of the damage in the first year of the crisis since it spread from East Asia to South Africa, Russia and South America. The World Bank stated that the dramatic increase in private investment in developing countries has been thrown sharply into reverse. By mid-1998 there was an alarming decline of 25 per cent and within the last month there has been a "much more dramatic gap". The Bank

reckons that as many as 20 million people have been thrown into poverty in Indonesia and Thailand alone. In a separate report the International Labour Office says that since the global crisis started world unemployment has climbed 10 million to 150 million. Also 25 to 30 per cent of the world's 3 billion labour force are underemployed — with all the social exclusion that entails.

What should be done? Britain should pursue two courses. Globally, there is clearly an urgent need to reconstruct the IMF and the World Bank to cope with a situation for which they were never designed — the tidal waves of money that can move around the globe almost instantaneously at the touch of a computer keyboard. A reconstructed authority would need much more information about short-term capital movements and central bank reserves in order to take preventive action. It will also need to explore the possibilities of short-term capital controls, at least as a temporary tool to prevent contagion spreading so quickly from one region to another. More controversially, the authorities must examine the feasibility of a transactions tax on short-term capital movements to dampen speculation. Everyone knows the catch. It has to be applied across the globe by all countries otherwise footloose capital will flood into the remaining funk holes. It may prove unworkable, but the prospect of having a new international financial authority may make it less of a pipe dream.

Second, Britain should try to persuade other European countries to co-ordinate their recovery plans irrespective of international financial reform. Europe as a region is over 90 per cent self-sufficient in trade and regularly sports a balance of payments surplus. Europe is in a strong position to offset the deflationary effects of the global crisis by stimulating the current cyclical

recovery which has been faltering. The obvious tactic is a regional reduction in interest rates. This is not easy because of the growth of fiercely independent central banks — shortly to be merged into a single independent European Central Bank. But these banks do not act in isolation of the political forces around them. Europe as a region has a central role to play in international reform but it must never forget the power it has in its own backyard.

Border clashes

It's a wake-up call for the SNP

IN Inverness a group of men and women are sharing a new experience. They are the Scottish National Party gathering for their annual conference — and, perhaps for the first time, they have the strange sensation that they are being watched. In the past they could pass resolutions to their hearts' content, but few outsiders ever took any notice. The SNP could and did contest general elections, but they could never hope to be more than a small minority party at Westminster. Now, though, they have a shot at government. For the Inverness conference is the last before next May's elections to Scotland's own parliament, and polls now put the nationalists neck-and-neck with Labour. What was once political science fiction is now a logical possibility: the SNP could emerge as Edinburgh's largest single party, with Alex Salmond as Scotland's first minister.

That possibility alone has subjected the SNP to some unwelcome and unwanted attention. Business leaders are warning of dire consequences of SNP-driven independence: yesterday the boss of Inverness's biggest firm, Tulloch Construction, threatened to

head south if Scotland broke away and raised taxes. Gordon Brown turned his heavy artillery on the SNP, too, accusing it of relying on "myth and manufactured grievance".

There is a double challenge in all this, one for the SNP, the other for Labour. The nationalists have to make the awkward journey from party of protest to potential party of power. That requires answers for the likes of Tulloch and conservative-minded big business. But, more deeply, it forces the SNP to pull off the New Labour trick: reaching out to new voters while holding on to its base. It's a tall order: the SNP needs to win over middle-class Scots, keep their rural and Highland bases and make inroads into Labour's urban heartland in the west of Scotland.

But Labour, too, faces a challenge. It has to see off the claim, subtly vindicated by yesterday's broadside from Number 11, that Labour is becoming the party of London. If it is to win in a distinctively Scottish parliament, it needs distinctively Scottish policies. That might even mean a different tax rate north of the border: that is, after all, what Scots voted for in last year's referendum. If devolution is to be meaningful, with the different nations of Britain free to develop their own political cultures, then it's not just governments which will have to devolve power: the parties will, too.

Kennel customs

Let more pets in

BRING me your tired and hungry mastiffs, struggling to be free (of their leads). Yesterday's announcement about lifting quarantine for doggy imports was not quite a statute of liberty for pets and pooches. Press

and public in this country have a tendency to hyperventilate where canine fate is concerned and in discussions about the length of existing quarantine anthropomorphism too often runs riot. In a country less concerned with the symbolism of its geographical position or less paranoid about the European threat (witness yesterday's historically ignorant ructions about the Queen's head on euro-notes) we might some time ago have taken steps to reform the entry regime for dogs. Technology has changed, allowing individual identification of animals, so has the assessment of rabies risk. It's not only that the disease has been pushed further east on the Continent (in the feral population — you need to go a long way south and east to encounter rabid dogs). But in an age when British cattle are sequestered on these islands because of BSE the costs and benefits of animal autarky require a much finer calculus than was ever applied to dogs. But now, thanks to the ethicist Ian Kennedy, the Government has the intellectual underpinnings for moving policy forward in a sensible direction. It should not have needed the hysterical lobbying of famous dog-owners-who-have-lived abroad to have prompted a review.

The idea is to supply pets with a unique means of identification — microchips are cheap to implant — together with veterinary certification. The existing procedure would apply to dogs from countries where rabies is endemic. This will of course mean two channels at the ports and a set of procedures which, if they applied to humans, would get human rights antennae tingling. Sooner or later there will be a dog Schengen, so that one country's mutt gets to travel to another EU member country without let or hindrance. There will be trouble, though, when canine asylum-seekers start showing up at Heathrow.

Letters to the Editor

Bill, Hill, Grant and Tiffany

DIXONS boasts (On the Dixon Net for free, September 23) there is "no catch" to its free Internet service. So I was surprised to find that technical support calls are charged at £1 a minute. In my experience as a small Internet service provider, most customers take several calls to set up their system, often taking over 60 minutes. In practice that could cost the average customer over £60 to connect up.
Mike Lloyd, London.

THE president's "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is" has been taken as an example of Clintonian filibustering. But the meaning of "is" or of being is the subject of perhaps the greatest philosophical work of the 20th century, Heidegger's *Being and Time*. Perhaps the president needs to pursue this question away from the distractions of the Oval Office.
Harry Eyras, London.

THE common derivative of (testes and testify (from testis, to witness) led to the custom of grasping one's testicles when giving evidence under oath. I wonder if we would have had more chance of getting to the truth if Hillary had done this for Bill?
Dr Andrew Weeks, Scunthorpe.

EIGHTEEN months ago, I submitted an EastEnders script which contained a scene of Grant and Tiffany sitting by a swimming pool with Grant reading what I specified to be a "cheap lurid thriller". My script editor instructed me to omit this at the second draft stage on account of the fact that "no one in EastEnders reads".
Chris Reason, Hebdon Bridge.

IF a deeper voice is a side-effect of anabolic steroids (What made Flo-Jo go? September 23), it is surprising that Alan Ball and Emyln Hughes never succumbed.
William Barrett, London.

Paying for Tesco's jobs

A RECENT survey quotes the average net farm income of Welsh lowland farmers as £7,400 per annum, which must provide capital for reinvestment as well as a living wage. An agricultural journal reported that a farmer want round Tesco putting together a lamb carcass the same dead weight he had sold the company (Tesco to raise supermarket stakes by hiring 10,000, September 23).

On putting together the carcass for which he had been paid £32, he found that Tesco was selling the same for £36 — and there was a five-week delay before he was paid. The farmer would have had to look after and feed a ewe for 365 days a year, solely in order to produce that lamb (the ewe's wool would have been worth £2), which additionally would have required feeding four to six months before being sold to Tesco. On the other hand, Tesco would have expected to sell the meat in less than five days.

Tesco and the other four main British supermarkets now have a monopolistic

stranglehold on British agriculture. Meanwhile, David Sainsbury, the Labour government's sugar daddy, is now also on their pay-roll.
L. J. Jenkins, Cardigan.

TESCO to create 10,000 jobs? Rubbish. Tesco cannot make us consume more groceries; its increase in turnover results from its efficiency and purchasing power driving others, mainly small traders, out of business.
R. Hilken, Exeter.

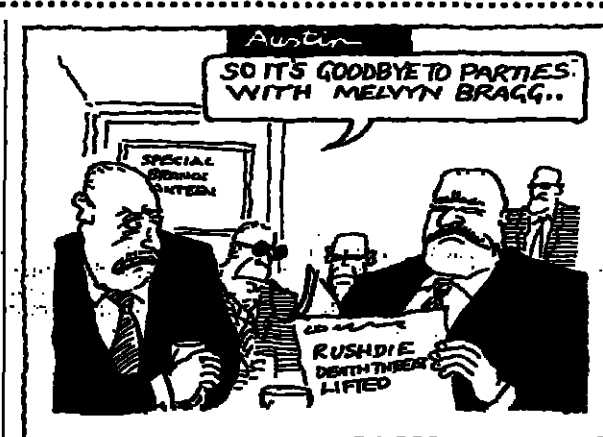
THE Office of Fair Trading has published a report claiming that our supermarkets are charging too much for everyday groceries. It comes as no surprise to myself, living next to "the longest street market in Europe". Items such as fruit and vegetables are at least 50 per cent cheaper than in the supermarket than the local branch of Sainsbury's.

Although the market traders do not have the overhead of property or staff costs, they

cannot compete with the massive purchasing power of a supermarket chain. The market traders are obviously trading at a profit and making a living. It seems that the supermarkets are making a killing.
Mark Kobayashi-Hillary, London.

BELIEVE that my wife and I have stumbled on an exchange rate mechanism which does not appear to be published. Returning from a stay in the US, we noticed that several items, eg writing sets and white male ankle socks, to mention but two, were being sold here for the same figures in GB pounds as they were sold there in US dollars.

Socks at \$3.99 and £3.99, and writing sets at \$45 and £45 means an exchange rate of 1:1. We just shrugged this off as we had brought our goods over to find a similar phenomenon after recently returning from Germany, where a well-known shampoo was DM2.99 and over here is £2.99.
Peter Hill-Paul, Bideford, Devon.



Whose head on the euro block?

THE British response to the ECB's decision to leave national symbols — ie the Queen's head — off the future euro notes takes the perversity of our attitude to the EU to new heights (Septics up in arms after Europe's bankers cut off Queen's head September 23). Should the UK join the single currency, the coins will have all the space needed for a royal profile. A substantial proportion of the UK population rarely even sees the Queen on its notes. In Scotland, the three clearing banks feature oil rigs to "seekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beasties" on their bank notes, but never the sovereign's smile.
John Edvard, EU policy adviser, Scotland, Europa, Brussels.

IT IS refreshing to see the Lib Dems so disarmingly honest in admitting that taxes will have to rise in Britain should we join the euro. However, people do not go on to admit that for monetary union to work,

taxes in Britain will rise on a permanent basis to harmonise with those higher rates prevalent across the EU.

What is clear from yesterday's announcement that it is easier to remove the Queen's head than to remove the head of the ECB, is that the abolition of sterling is a constitutional issue. By joining EMU, Britain loses its right to manage its own economic affairs.
Douglas Ellison, London.

SURELY someone in the Tory party is old enough to have told William Hague that adding the monarch's head to Bank of England notes is a recent change (and yet to reach Scotland). From the fuss he and John Redwood were making you would think that some ancient British tradition was about to be ended, rather than a somewhat pointless late 19th-century innovation being reversed.
Alan Mathison, Norwood Green, Middx.

Citizen test

YOUR excellent account (Citizenship lessons urged for pupils, September 23) of the report of the advisory group on the Teaching of Citizenship and Democracy in Schools (of which I was chair) says that teachers' unions are concerned "that important subjects will have to be left out to make room". This is a mistaken fear, as the Secretary of State made clear in his statement and we did in our report. We argued that our proposals could be met within 5 per cent of the timetable. Probably about one third of schools already find a period a week for citizenship, whatever it's called. But we made quite clear that no other subject should suffer; that a large part of our proposals could be met through existing subjects (notably history and geography) and that the full programme

should be phased in through time — and even that depends on the Qualification and Curriculum Authority making recommendations for a reduction of content in some of the existing required subjects and for greater flexibility overall, on which they are working.

Without this, citizenship cannot work. It is somewhat irresponsible of Nigel de Gruchy to raise the fear while he says he fears it in principle — that other whole subjects could suffer. That is not so. We know the heavy burdening of teachers and we tread very carefully. But as the Speaker of the House of Commons said in her forward to the report, the absence of citizenship as a subject "has been a blot on the landscape of public life for too long, with unfortunate consequences for the future of our democratic processes".
Bernard Crick, Edinburgh.

Last laugh

THE phrases "ex-lefty" and "sold-out" are those of Guardian headline writers and not mine (Letters, September 23). Like many Labour members I still believe in unilateral disarmament, state-owned utilities and the public flogging of Mrs Thatcher. However, I had to grudgingly accept that under the present electoral system, these policies risked keeping the Tories in power for ever. Hopefully the advent of PR will free the Labour Party of the slavish pursuit of that last 5 per cent of Conservative voters and will allow the party to reposition itself firmly back on the left. All I ask is that next time we present ourselves with a little more humour and self-awareness than we did in the 1980s.
John o' Farrell, (Author of *Things Can Only Get Better*), London.

Stiff prices

AS the debate on the right to have Viagra supplied on the NHS rumbles on, it may be timely to mention that people such as my husband and myself are paying £100 a month for a new drug specifically to delay the development of Alzheimer's Disease. We cannot obtain this drug through the NHS, but for us it is a desperate attempt to delay the collapse of memory and the change in personality which can be so devastating to family and friends.

I am aware, of course, that many could not even envisage such a payment and in that respect, we must count ourselves fortunate. It means that we have to forgo any, other than essential, expenditure, such as holidays etc. Are the people demanding Viagra prepared to make these sacrifices, I wonder? Who is to sit in judgment on the opposing

priorities? New drugs are being developed all the time so surely this is the time to decide on how these ethical choices are to be made because it can only become more difficult.
Name and address supplied.

IT IS not only the NHS that is overcharged by some of the pharmaceutical companies. So too is the over-the-counter customer. This summer I bought some Imodium capsules in Britain. I paid the equivalent of 15p per capsule. In a British pharmacy, the price was 4p, almost three times as much. Likewise, for Iprufen gel: in Britain I paid the equivalent of 5p per gram compared with 12.5p at my local Boots.

Are these two enormous price differences exceptions or are they typical? Have the manufacturers any explanation for these discrepancies?
David Pitt, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

Serbian view

HAVE not seen any reaction to Jonathan Steele's new plan for international intervention in Kosovo (Send our engineers, September 15). His idea is simple: to send British, American and other Western soldiers to rebuild houses while setting up an international protectorate in this province of Serbia.

Mr Steele says these forces would not need United Nations approval. But how would local trade unions react to such unfair competition and would the Serbs allow this Trojan horse into their country? There is no ground or need for military intervention. The terrorist organisation, the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, is facing total collapse. There is strong evidence that the situation is being normalised. Every day dozens of villages hand over the weapons the terrorists forced on them. There are no large camps of refugees in the open, and people are going back to their homes. There is and will be no "humanitarian catastrophe". There is hope that the ethnic Albanians' political representatives will agree to hold talks with the government, so that Mr Steele and others will have no need to call for military intervention.
Djordje Mijalkovic, Counsellor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Brussels.

Bank job

BARCLAYCARD, announcing £1,100 job losses, blames "increased" competition in the credit card market (Heavy job cuts on the cards at Barclays, September 23). A few years ago Barclaycard introduced an annual fee. As a result I switched to a card provider charging no fee. I imagine others did the same. It is regrettable, but not surprising, that it is the staff who must now suffer the consequences of Barclaycard's corporate greed. Also today, I telephoned Lloyds Bank to discover that I can no longer deal directly with my bank manager, but must speak to a call centre operative. I wonder how long it will be before Lloyds announces job losses due to mysteriously increased competition?
Dr Christopher Grey, Marsden, West Yorkshire.

IN my estimate, the salary bill of the employees to be laid off by Barclaycard can be no more than £15 million. This is little more than 5 per cent of the group's reduced profits of £275 million. This is not a company in financial danger and it is perfectly able to let the workforce reduce in size by natural wastage. This is a pathetic example of lean-management machinery at its worst.
A. Sharples, Brussels.

Skye blue

WHY should a man who has never lived with his son be allowed to remove a boy of eight years from his family to live in a city where he knows nobody (Ald sought to find boy snatched by mother, September 23)? Any responsible mother would want to protect their son from this, especially if he has lived with her for all of his eight years? To describe this as "snatching" is lazy reporting. If the courts really cared about this boy's welfare, they would do all they could to support him and his mother rather than threatening her with prison and him with the loss of the most important relationship in his life. As is so often the case in custody battles, all parties feel aggrieved and outraged at the behaviour of the other. Name and address supplied.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied. Please include a full postal address. We may edit letters.

Police must act to catch the real killer of Carl Bridgewater

TWENTY years ago this week, at Yew Tree Farm in Staffordshire, a young life was taken — that of newspaper boy, Carl Bridgewater. His murder was a heinous crime and rightly evoked great public outrage. Unfortunately, this outrage resulted in a knee-jerk reaction from the police and so today the perpetrator of the crime remains unpunished.

Instead of concentrating their efforts on finding the real culprit, certain infamous and since-discredited members of the police obtained a false confession and fabricated evidence so that four innocent men were convicted. These men remained incarcerated for almost 19 years. During those years every opposition and every possible obstacle were encountered before the Home Office and judiciary finally admitted that a gross miscarriage of justice had been perpetrated. The innocent men were acquitted 15 months ago with the expectation that the police would immediately investigate and bring the real killer to justice.

Despite letters urging them to do so immediately after the vindication of the innocent men, there has been no reported progress. There is little doubt that with will and commitment, the investigation could be speedily brought to a conclusion. Fairness to the men who suffered such a terrible miscarriage, to the Bridgewater family and to the British public requires action now.

As far as the innocent men and their families are concerned, the case will not be considered closed until justice has not only been done but seen to be done — with the arrest and conviction of the real killer.
Ann Whelan, (Mother of Michael Hickey of the Bridgewater Four), Wythall, Warks.

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DECORATION
ISSUE
EVER

ON SALE 17 SEPTEMBER

A rebel before Brando

Ironically, in *Destination Tokyo* (1944), while Garfield was a cocky, girl-crazy seaman, Clark (over-) played a



Thereafter, he turned up in minor British thrillers in the 1950s, frequently a sign of

Dane Clark, film actor, born February 18, 1913; died September 11, 1998

Making the calories count

He is survived by his wife, Heather, his daughter Nicola and his son, Jonathan.

Margaret Ashwell

David Hugh Buss, nutritionist, born June 26, 1938; died August 29, 1998

■ To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4587 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Strath Hallidale in Caithness and then on down to the first of the large trysts or fairs at Muir of Ord. These highland cattle — the beasts from the west coast were called kyles — were much larger than the smaller, shaggy hill cattle that were found at the county fairs and mainly black as opposed to the current trend for red. There were drovers' inns on the route from the north, such as the one north of Evanston called "The Drover's Inn" and about five miles south on the same road is an overnight stopping place which is still marked on the Ordnance Survey map as "Drove Station". In this wide country the cattle would have been sent to graze on the hills and then be brought back to be shod until they reached the roads south of Inverness. Some of these cattle walked on to the great trysts at Crieff or Falkirk and even further south.



f

Radical vision of the family

After reading psychology and social administration at Nottingham University — where she met her husband,

Sarah Wedderburn

Carolyn Maynard Douglas, born April 4, 1940; died September 3, 1998

Margaret Ashwell
David Hugh Buss, nutritionist,
born June 26, 1938; died August
29, 1998

gle and earned his zoology degrees from UCLA. In 1965 he founded the University of California Natural Reserve System, which has preserved 120,000 acres of the state's diverse ecology, and later became assistant director of the Oceanic Institute in Hawaii and then director of UC Santa Cruz's Centre for Coastal Marine Studies. He was also curator of MarineLand of the Pacific, one of America's first large aquariums.

He is survived by his wife Phyllis, three daughters, a son, and six grandchildren.

Christopher Reed

Kenneth Stafford Norris, marine naturalist, born August 11, 1924; died August 15, 1998

Death Notices

ANSMECO. Barbara Joyce, aged 84 years. Passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord on 18th September. Late of Southport and Eastbourne. Widow of Reginald, very much loved and missed by her son Richard, sisters Joan and Hazel, family and many friends. A source of strength, comfort and joy. Special thanks to Condoctors House staff for their wonderful care. No flowers but donations for Condoctors House and funeral details c/o Maine & Son Ltd, Eastbourne 01323 727801.

FREETH. (née Nightingale) Joan Marguerite, died at Miffield Park, Sudbury, on September 10th 1999, aged 84. Loved by family and Friends. Funeral at Furness Vale on Tuesday 23rd September at 4pm. Donations to Waterlaid and all enquiries to Peter Jay, Sudbury 01438 733636.

MORTON, Robert. Edward died aged 92 in hospital on 23rd September 1982. Dubliner. Husband of the late Consueva Morton. Father of Michael, John, Richard. Philip and Robert. Robert was for many years active member of Quaker Society. Married twice. First to Peasey Group, in Epsom, Surrey. Remembered with affection by his large and scattered family. Cremated Friday, September 26th at 12 o'clock. Thornhill Crematorium, Cardiff.

Marriages

CONNOLLY/WHITE. Richard and Ethne Connolly, of Glasnevin, Dublin, announce the marriage of their only daughter Eileen to Trishen White, only son of Terry and Rose, of Vail d'Audra, Spain, to take place on 1 October 1982 in Howth, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

To place your announcement telephone 01-478 7147 or fax 01-713 7171 7173 4707 between 9am and 3pm.



Clarifications

regarded as a shoe-in ..."
That should have been shooin, an Americanism meaning (Concise OED) "something easy or certain to succeed", or (Webster's) "a candidate, competitor, etc., regarded as certain to win. [1945-50, Amer.]"

THE CAPTION to a photograph used to accompany a report about the recent ETA ceasefire. Page 15. September 18, referred to San Sebastian as the capital of the Basque Country. The official capital is Vitoria (or Gasteiz, its Basque name).

WE MISSELT the name of the Lib-Dem MP. David Ren-

del. throughout a report from the Brighton Conference. Page 13, September 23 (there's only one 1 in Rendell). Apologies.



PHOTOGRAPHY: M. MEADMORE

Birthdays

Charlotte Atkins, Labour MP, 48; Svetlana Berlosova, former ballerina, 66; Elizabeth Blackadder, painter, 67; Eavan Boland, poet, 54; Sir Mervyn Brown, historian of Africa, 75; Prof Geoffrey Burbidge, astronomer, 73; Prof Richard Hoggart, writer, educationalist, 80;

Catherine Hughes, former principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 65; **Robert Jackson**, Conservative MP, 52; **John Kasmin**, art dealer, 64; **Robert Lang**, actor and director, 64; **Ally McCoist**, footballer, 36; **Prof George McNicol**, former principal, Aberdeen University, 68; **Bernard Neill**, textile designer, 64; **Anthony Newley**, actor and composer, 67; **Richard Northcott**, film producer, 51; **John Rutter**, composer and conductor, 53; **Richard Spring**, Conservative MP, 52.

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CONNOLLY/WHITE. Richard and Ethne Connolly, of Glasnevin, Dublin, announce the marriage of their only daughter Eileen to Trishen White, only son of Terry and Rose, of Vail d'Audra, Spain, to take place on 1 October 1982 in Howth, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

To place your announcement telephone 01-478 7147 or fax 01-713 7171 7173 4707 between 9am and 3pm.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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FinanceGuardian

A million lose on pensions

Liz Stuart

WATCHDOGS will this month unveil their findings into a possible new pensions mis-selling scandal, which was yesterday estimated to have affected one million people and cost them almost £700 million.

The Financial Services Authority admitted last night that it has concluded its review of the sale of private top-up policies for occupational pensions. The findings are likely to be published within weeks.

Actuaries Bacon & Woodrow yesterday published their exhaustive and long-awaited research into the problem. The firm has calculated that one million people who have topped up their company pension by paying money into an additional private policy may have lost out on a total of £675

million on their investments, due to punitive charges.

B&W said that, on average, in-house or occupational top-ups (additional voluntary contributions) are significantly cheaper than the private (free standing additional voluntary contributions) alternative. In many cases they are up to £1,000 cheaper.

Andy Cox, of B&W, said: "Without seeing the specific files we cannot tell whether this constitutes mis-selling. It could just be that people were not given full information about what the company scheme offered when they were sold their FSAVC, or that the regulations allowed them to do this."

However, Mr Cox added that more than half the in-house pension-plan managers surveyed believed that their members had been mis-sold an FSAVC. An FSA spokesman said that until the results of its review are announced, people who were con-

Top ups Best and worst

Best case: Boost your company pension with an in-house AVC	
Top performers	Accumulated fund
Fidelity	£4,513
Scottish Mutual	£4,397
Flemings	£4,346
Commercial Union	£4,329
London Life	£4,301
Worst case: Buy a free-standing AVC	
Poorest performers	
Cornhill Life	£3,026
Clerical Medical	£3,327
Canada Life	£3,453
Merchant Investors Ins	£3,521
Commercial Union	£3,535

AVC: additional voluntary contribution. Based on monthly contributions of £50 over five years for someone retiring at age 55. Source: Bacon & Woodrow

from Fidelity, would have built up £4,513 over the same period with the same £50 monthly contribution.

The best FSAVC has performed worse than the average AVC, according to Mr Cox, although these figures are affected by performance as well as charges.

If evidence of mis-selling is discovered, however, any redress would be on a much smaller scale than the £11 billion pensions review — the number of people involved and amount invested in top-ups are smaller and those who have been advised to opt out of company schemes have not sacrificed contributions from their employers.

The FSA is currently overseeing the second phase of the mammoth pension review, in which it is seeking to compensate the estimated 1.8 million younger people who were mis-sold personal pensions in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

B&W is now calling for

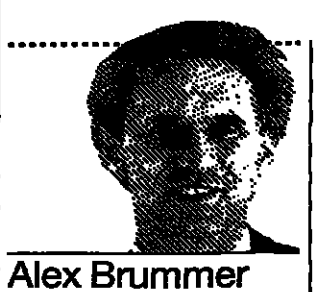
tighter regulation of pension top-ups. However, employers may be partly to blame for the problems — many have been criticised for not informing staff that they offer an AVC scheme, to enable them to boost their pensions.

The Association of British Insurers was last night playing down the B&W research. "The association is somewhat scornful of this report. We are not convinced of their methodology. FSAVCs can be more expensive than the in-house product but this does not necessarily mean they have been mis-sold — there are other reasons an individual may choose to buy one. We await the report from the regulator," said a spokesman.

B&W says that the main reasons for taking out an FSAVC — portability, privacy and investment choice — are "largely illusory".

In-house schemes generally offer a far greater range of investments.

Notebook Investment banks losing their grip



Alex Brummer

AS THE emerging market crisis deepens, the global investment banking sector is looking more sick by the day. Nomura in the US has taken a huge hit on its property finance activities; earnings at Lehman, the fourth largest American broker, have tumbled 22 per cent; and Goldman Sachs is signalling a grim final quarter which augurs poorly for flotation prospects.

ments, rather than the wisdom of an actual float, so the alignment of forces is rather different. The best chance at most certainly comes from the latest results posted in New York late on Tuesday. As projected these show a fall to \$741 million for the three months ended in August, from \$832 million in the year before. More significant is the warning, however, that increasingly difficult market conditions will "negatively impact" the final quarter results. That is not quite what investors contemplating buying stock in a public offering really want to hear.

Coral gamble

GIVEN that Ladbroke's traditional business is one of taking risks, it must have known the odds were almost certainly against it when it bought Coral from Bass for £363 million in May. Like all good bookies it sought to lay off the odds of being blocked by the competition authorities through a pre-sale of some 131 of the Coral outlets to the government-owned Tote, a deal which will be scrapped.

Despite the setback Ladbroke looks confident that it can offload Coral at a profit. It is noted that it has already pocketed earnings of £17.1 million, a figure which could have doubled by year end. The difficulty for Peter George, the chief executive, is that Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, has given the company six months to offload Coral: potential buyers knowing Ladbroke is a forced seller might hold off.

It is possible that the Tote, which is preparing for new ownership in the private sector might be a potential buyer, though this may not be considered the best way to spend public money. Similarly, another potential buyer Nomura, which already controls William Hill, may be feeling less gung-ho, given the firm's difficulties in the US and turbulent market conditions.

What the decision does show is that Mr Mandelson, in his first frontline merger decision, is not planning to take any prisoners. Although the odds on the deal being blocked were always high, because of the 38 per cent market share which Ladbroke would have accumulated, the timetable for the sale is punitive. This is a useful shot across the bows to other potential monopolists.

Starr performer

AMID the gloom on Wall Street, two hi-tech Ashares Amazon.com, the Internet bookseller, and Yahoo!, a provider of Internet services, have seen their stock surging. The cause of the renewed interest is the same as that of recent market turbulence: President Clinton's future. Americans have flocked to both sites to view and buy the Starr report and Clinton video in record numbers. It could mean that Amazon, a pioneer Internet bookseller, might finally turn a profit.

Prescott backs tolls on roads

David Cow Industrial Editor

THE day when motorists pay electronic tolls to use Britain's crowded motorways or enter congested cities moved closer yesterday when John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, announced two pilot projects in England and Scotland.

The test sites have not been announced and Mr Prescott urged local authorities to volunteer to take part in the schemes testing computerised equipment developed by leading European companies such as Bosch and GEC. The projects will encourage motorists to divert to public transport.

"I want people to have real choice in transport. I am not

out to clobber drivers, but we cannot cope with the rising level of car usage, pollution and congestion in our towns and cities," he told a local authority conference in London.

Road pricing is a central element of Mr Prescott's white paper on integrated transport, largely drafted by Prof David Begg, transport convener at Edinburgh city council.

That local authority plans to raise £20 million a year by charging motorists a £1 toll to enter the city centre. Leicester has conducted an experiment using volunteers.

Mr Prescott said research he undertook last week in Singapore had convinced him that electronic charges could be imposed without causing huge tail-backs at toll-gates.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS	
Australia 2.84	Germany 2.7435
Austria 18.24	Greece 472.89
Belgium 36.81	Hong Kong 12.86
Canada 2.50	India 71.569
Cyprus 10.51	Ireland 1.0887
Denmark 10.81	Israel 6.46
Finland 8.435	Italy 2.724
France 9.77	
<small>Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and indonesian)</small>	

Two-year trial may follow superstore indictment

Roger Cowe

RETAIL analysts are predicting that yesterday's damning Office of Fair Trading report on supermarkets is a precursor to a full-scale Monopolies Commission inquiry.

"I think the OFT will conclude that it will have to have a major look at it, which will probably take two years," said Robert Clark of Corporate Intelligence on Retailing.

The research report accused supermarkets of abusing their near-monopoly status and failing to give shoppers value for money. It questioned whether the growing power of leading retailers benefits consumers or represents a threat to competition which requires government action.

The publication comes days after the competition watchdog demanded a final response from the supermarkets as part of its inquiry into the grocery industry.

But retailers complained fiercely yesterday that the economic analysis had been misrepresented as concluding that shoppers were losing out.

"It is fair enough to say there is a case to answer," said Kevin Hawkins for the British Retail Consortium. "But it is extremely irresponsible to suggest that they have the answers now."

The analysis, covering the entire retail sector, concludes that consumers have gained choice and convenience from the growth of large chains. The authors, three economists from Loughborough, Warwick and Nottingham universities, also accept that the increase in scale has brought economies.

But they question whether consumers rather than company profits have gained the benefit.

"Average profit margins have been increasing over time in the sector, suggesting that retailers are increasingly able to retain the benefits from their increased bargaining power rather than passing them to consumers."

They say previous examination by the Monopolies Commission had concluded that consumers had benefited, but argue that this may no longer be the case.

'Competition is alive and well. We care passionately about keeping prices down'
Asda

'It is extremely irresponsible to suggest they have the answers now'
British Retail Consortium

The supermarkets pointed out that the study covered the whole retail sector, not just the grocery area and it ignored recent falls in net profit margins.

A spokesman for Asda, which announced a price freeze last week, said: "Competition is alive and well. We care passionately about keeping prices down."

A Sainsbury spokeswoman said: "We believe we are highly competitive and the benefits from economies of scale are passed on to customers."

Mr Hawkins said food prices had fallen by 15 per cent in real terms over the past 10 years. In the past five years the retail price index had increased by an average 3 per cent, while food prices rose by 1.5 per cent a year.

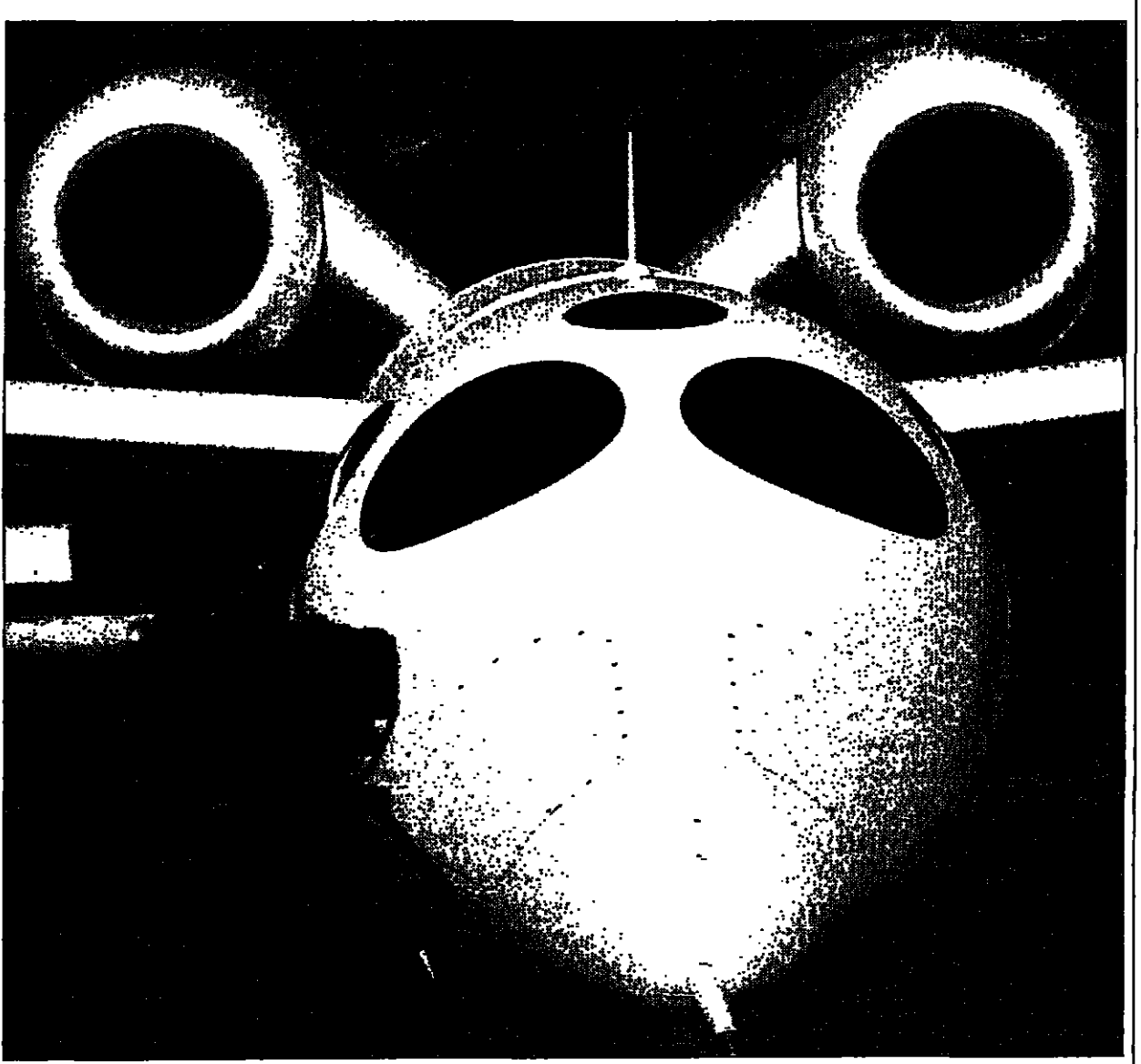
Mr Clark said the supermarkets would have to answer several serious questions about the growing dominance of the top five chains.

"Net profit margins have turned down but I'm not so sure about gross margins," he said. "And that is because of the extra cost which has been invested in things like loyalty cards and marketing efforts to get people into the stores."

"You could argue that consumers would rather have lower prices than those inducements."

He suggested British market leaders were desperate to avoid a shopping pattern similar to that in Germany, where shoppers regularly buy commodity items from discount stores, using the up-market chains for more specialist purchases.

The circle plane



The Proteus high altitude long operation aircraft before its inaugural flight yesterday in California. It will provide 1,000 times the capacity of communication relay satellites while circling above cities at 50,000 feet PHOTOGRAPH: NICK WIT

Pringle in the rough with Faldo

Julie Treanor

THE fortunes of Dawson International, which owns the Pringle knitwear promoted by Nick Faldo, have continued to track the recent poor performance of the golfer.

The Scottish-based company yesterday revealed worsening losses of £23.6 million in the first half of the year, blaming the economic crisis in Asia and the strong pound.

"The textile sector is a lead indicator and we do feel the effects of recession much quicker," said Paul Munn, the finance director.

Dawson, which failed to find a buyer for itself earlier this year and later shed 700 jobs, intends to focus on its core cashmere business and is seeking suitors for its other businesses, which include a carpet yarn spinning business and a large fur fabric business.

A third of its business is thermal clothing in north America. This strategy might ultimately involve the sale of Pringle.

The share price has plummeted from a high of 88p this year to 18p where it was trading yesterday.

Mr Munn said that the market was undervaluing the company and that its share



price should be double its current level.

The different parts of the

Dawson group were worth more individually than the value the market was placing on the entire group. "In today's uncertainty there has to be a pragmatic approach," he said.

Dawson made a pre-tax loss of £10 million before exceptional charges of £13.3 million in the first half, in comparison with a £5 million loss during the same period last year.

Many other retail and textile companies have been encountering similar problems to Dawson, which reduced the manufacturing capacity of its Laidlaw & Fairgrieve woollen spinning business by 40 per cent and that of Pringle by 50 per cent.

Investors seek end to Biotech war

Julia Finch

INVESTORS in the troubled drug discovery group British Biotech yesterday pleaded with directors to end the company's legal battle with former employee Andrew Miller and halt a six-month slide of the company's share price.

As it emerged that Dr Miller has begun proceedings against British Bio — alleging libel and wrongful dismissal, with his costs underwritten by Times Newspapers — shareholders expressed concern at the damage being inflicted by the row.

At a lively annual meeting, one investor said: "The company's public relations position is at an all-time low and its share price is a disaster." Another suggested that a peace settlement "must stick in your craw but it must be the best thing to do".

British Bio's shares, once at 300p, now change hands at 30p.

The scandal broke in March when British Bio fired Dr Miller, its head of clinical studies, for telling leading shareholders that he believed the company was wasting time and money on its two key drug projects.

He then went public, say-

ing that Marimastat, a cancer treatment seen as a potential blockbuster, had no more than a 40 per cent chance of success and Zalcitabine, for pancreatitis, was all but useless. He also made allegations about directors' share dealings which are being investigated by the Stock Exchange.

A House of Commons select committee investigated the affair during the summer and concluded that Dr Miller had not caused the company's problems.

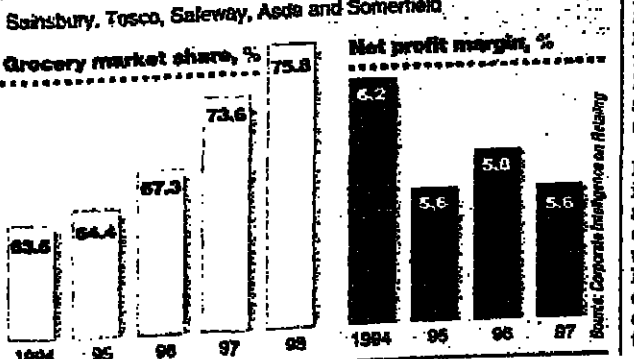
John Ralston, the company's chairman, and multi-millionaire chief executive Keith McCullagh stepped down from the company at yesterday's

meeting. Former ICI director Christopher Hampson has been installed as chairman and Elliott Goldstein, a SmithKline Beecham executive, has taken over as chief executive.

Mr Ralston told the meeting that questions about the Miller affair were sub-judice. The company's legal action against Dr Miller alleging breaches of contract and confidentiality was very strong and involved a question of principle, he said.

The two newcomers seem less committed to the action. Mr Hampson describing it as "a distraction that is damaging to the company".

Top five dominate



Football

Spurs close in as Graham stays silent

Ian Ross

LEEDS United's grim fight to hang on to their manager George Graham is likely to reach its climax next week.

Yesterday, as Graham maintained a diplomatic silence — one which possibly spoke volumes about his short-term future — an air of resignation hung heavy over the west Yorkshire club.

Although the Leeds chairman Peter Ridsdale insisted he has no further contact with Tottenham since rebuffing their initial overtures last weekend, senior figures inside both Elland Road and White Hart Lane were convinced that rumour was shortly to become fact. If Graham joins Spurs, Leeds are expected to make Coventry's Gordon Strachan, a former captain at Elland Road, their first-choice replacement.

Despite being told Graham would definitely serve the final three years of his Leeds contract, Tottenham are still interested in bringing the former Arsenal manager back to the capital.

Graham has said he will not walk out on the club he joined only two years ago, but leaving and walking out are different things to different men.

The belief is that, if Tottenham agree to pay Leeds handsomely for the right to talk, and then recruit, their manager, Graham would not hesitate to succeed Christian Gross in north London.

Tottenham's chairman Alan Sugar has been made fully aware of the financial hurdles. Graham has a contractual clause permitting him to open negotiations with another club if it agrees to pay compensation — believed to be £1 million.

And, if Graham left Leeds, Tottenham would be asked to find another £1 million immediately and then hand over the £2.5 million the Scot

would have earned at Leeds. Typical Yorkshire defiance was backed yesterday by talk of possible legal action against both Graham and Tottenham should Leeds fail to be fully compensated.

Ironically Graham's final domestic game with Leeds may be Saturday's meeting with Tottenham in London. As Leeds brace themselves for another phone call from Sugar, local bookmakers were compiling a provisional shortlist including Strachan, Kenny Dalglish, Leicester's Martin O'Neill and David O'Leary, Graham's assistant.

Bryan Richardson, Coventry's chairman, has already warned Leeds: "Gordon Strachan has more chance of flying to the moon than becoming your next manager. Gordon is under contract until 2003 and this is where he stays."

Steve Simonsen, the England under-21 player, has broken the British record for a goalkeeper when finally moving from Tranmere to Everton for £3.3 million.

The 19-year-old Simonsen, who beats the £2.25 million Leeds paid Crystal Palace for Nigel Martyn last year, also becomes Britain's most expensive teenager.

But Simonsen does not expect to go straight into the side, saying: "I've been watching Thomas [Myhre] and he's been brilliant since he arrived."

Alex Ferguson has discouraged any Aston Villa initiative for Andy Cole and any Crystal Palace attempt for Teddy Sheringham by insisting "there are no players for sale" at Old Trafford.

Manchester United's manager also laughed off reports that he wants to sign the Croatia midfielder Silvio Maric from Croatia Zagreb.

Aberdeen have signed the striker Robbie Winters from Dundee United for around £700,000 with the Scotland international Billy Dodds moving the other way.

McMahon bows to the 'idiots'

STEVE McMAHON'S first stab at management ended yesterday when he resigned from Swindon Town. He blamed abusive fans, whom he described as "mindless and complete idiots", for his departure from the County Ground. His assistant Mike Walsh will take charge of the team at Tranmere tomorrow.

McMahon, under mounting pressure from supporters because of Swindon's poor start to the season, said: "When all this started to affect my family I knew it was time to go."

Swindon have won only two of their first nine league matches and were knocked out of the Worthington Cup by the Second Division strugglers Wycombe in the first round. When they lost 4-1 at home to Watford on Saturday angry supporters staged a sit-in in the middle of the pitch, demanding the resignation of manager and board.

"The players are disappointed but they knew something was going to happen after the weekend. I can't keep putting my family

through things like that," McMahon said.

"There were parents bringing their kids to matches and encouraging them to shout abuse. It's pathetic, especially when you consider most of them didn't even have to pay to get in. I won't accept that they have beaten me. These people aren't true supporters in my view. True supporters get behind their team."

Despite the bitterness of his departure, McMahon will travel to his home in Southampton tomorrow on the Swindon train bus.

McMahon became Swindon's player-manager in November 1994 when he took over from John Gorman but he could not prevent the Wiltshire club from being relegated to the Second Division the following May. However, he led them back to the First Division at the first attempt in 1997.

However, after an excellent start last season, when they reached the top of the table in early November, Swindon's form slumped and they finished in 16th place.

Scottish Premier: Aberdeen 1 Rangers 1

Wallace's luck turns just in time

Patrick Gleave

ROD WALLACE ended a night on which luck appeared to have deserted him with a goal on 79 minutes which saved Rangers considerable embarrassment.

The former Leeds forward's left-foot drive from 10 yards into the roof of Jim Leighton's net equalised the defeated free-kick from Eoin Jess which seems destined to earn Aberdeen all three points.

Robbie Winters, who joined Aberdeen from Dundee United yesterday morning for £500,000 plus Billy Dodds, made his first contribution by hypnotising Rangers' central defenders with a run that led to a goal after only four minutes.

Craig Moore and Lorenzo Amoruso certainly looked to be in a trance, immobile as the striker ran between them to gather a long ball out of defence. Winters was fouled by Moore for his ferocity as he flicked it to Jess on the right. From the free-kick 20 yards out, Jess's low shot hit Gabriel

Amato in the defensive wall and swerved away to Lionel Charbonnier's left.

Rangers responded with a series of near-misses which must have left their supporters believing that some malevolent force was at work.

The toe-end of Leighton's right boot stopped Jorg Albert's low free-kick but a post was then needed to keep out Amoruso's drive. Wallace also struck a post after Craig Hignett's eccentric lob came back off Leighton's crossbar.

But that was after Jess had missed an opportunity for Aberdeen's second, hitting Charbonnier from six yards following Hignett's low centre from the right.

After Jess had blazed over another free-kick, Wallace's misfortune continued when, released by Amato's neat pass inside the area, his shot hit Leighton on the leg.

Aberdeen 14-4-21; Leighton, Smith, Over, H. Jones, Whyte, Buchanan, Perry, McNiff, Rowan, Dow, J. Winters. Rangers 14-4-21; Charbonnier, Portin, Moore, Amoruso, Williams, Johnson, Connolly, Miller (Ferguson, 60), Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Albright, Wallace, Amato.

Referee: W. Young (Glasgow).

Worthington Cup



Enough said... Southampton's Carlton Palmer is sent off after a second booking at The Dell last night. JULIAN HERBERT

Second round, second leg: Southampton 0 Fulham 1 (agg 1-2)

Palmer off to a right Lehmann

Trevor Haylett

KEVIN KEEGAN, once famously unveiled as a surprise Southampton signing, had another shock in store for the South Coast club last night. His Fulham side played with confidence and impressive authority to bundle the Premiership strugglers out of the competition.

It was another disaster for Southampton, who have yet to win a game of any sort this season and who faced an uphill task from the 11th minute when Dirk Lehmann punished loose

defending to shoot the Second Division visitors ahead. To make matters worse for Dave Jones's side, the late equaliser at Craven Cottage a week ago Southampton's manager Jones expressed the wish that it would kick-start their season. That appeared

wishful thinking on Saturday when they had the worse of an uninspiring home draw with Tottenham, and there was evidence right at the start last night that they remained at a low ebb.

Agassi Palmer was badly exposed and severely embarrassed, stumbling on the ball deep in his own half, with the likes of Peter Beardsley around, was always likely to have serious repercussions. Beardsley made full use of the space in front of him and carefully slid a pass towards Lehmann, who finished with aplomb.

Bizarrely, Southampton kept repeating Palmer's trick. Claus Lundekvam and Mark Hughes also losing their footing when in possession and fortunate to get away with it.

Southampton enjoyed a good deal of possession but Egil Olsenstad's overhit pass intended for Matt Le Tissier was a prime example of how they were unable to make the best use of it. With Chris Coleman,

Simon Morgan and Kit Symons quick to plug the gaps, the signs were that it would take something special to disturb Fulham's composure, especially now that they had a lead to defend.

Palmer, advancing for a corner, was booked for saying something out of turn to Paul Durkin. Their next exchange came as the referee showed the Southampton defender the red card, an inevitable result of a late and aggressive aerial challenge launched on Lehmann.



Keegan... happy return

Le Tissier's free-kick from distance narrowly cleared the bar as Southampton continued to search for the spark to bring them back into the tie. It was heavy going for them, the mix of experienced heads and ambitious young blood taking a long time to gel.

For Hughes, now operating in a midfield role, it was like facing a carbon copy of himself, so quick were the yellow shirts in closing him down and denying the room he wanted to measure his passes. If anything it was Fulham who looked the more likely to score again, Wayne Collins just unable to force in Symons's header at the far post. Collins then swapped places with Steve Haywood, which paved the way for a splendid rising shot which Paul Jones countered with an equally fine save.

Southampton 14-4-21; Jones, Dodd, Palmer, Lundekvam, Morgan, Hughes, Le Tissier, Briggs, Beardsley (Basham, 60min, Olsenstad, 20min), Durkin, Le Tissier, Morgan, Coleman, Haywood, Lundekvam, Beardsley, Palmer, Durkin (Portland).

Results

Football

WORTHINGTON CUP

Second round, second leg

Colchester 2-1 Ipswich 1 (agg 3-2)

Derby 1-1 Watford 1 (agg 2-2)

Sheff Wed 1-1 Sheff Utd 1 (agg 2-2)

Sheff Utd 1-1 Sheff Wed 1 (agg 2-2)

Sheff Wed 1-1 Sheff Utd 1 (agg 2-2)

Sheff Utd 1-1 Sheff Wed 1 (agg 2-2)

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Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 6 Philadelphia 1

St Louis 3 Houston 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

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American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Ice Hockey

NHL

Boston 3 New York 1

St Louis 3 Houston 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

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Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Sailing

NORFOLK CUP

Telford 3

St Louis 3 Houston 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

American League

Minnesota 3 Chicago 1

Seattle 3 Tampa Bay 1

San Francisco 3 Pittsburgh 1

Los Angeles 3 San Diego 2

Golf

Faldo cuts ties with Leadbetter

Player's split leaves coach dismayed, reports Gordon Richardson

NICK FALDO blames "lack of communication" for his split with David Leadbetter, the American-based coach who had guided him for 13 years.

He confirmed in Cologne yesterday that he had told the British-born Leadbetter of his decision by letter and had switched to the head professional at his own Florida teaching academy declaring: "I'd got bogged down."

The parting comes after a desperate summer in which Faldo missed the cut in the US Masters and US Open, finished 42nd in the Open and 54th in the US PGA Championship and recorded the worst score of his American career, a closing 83 to finish last in the Heritage Classic.

Leadbetter, called in to rebuild Faldo's swing in 1985, was a key figure in his victories in the 1987, 1990 and 1992 Open championships and the 1989, 1990 and 1996 US Masters.

But he explained: "Things haven't been working out with David lately. I've been busting my buns the last few months and getting nowhere — it was a total lack of communication."

"David wasn't at the PGA Championship and I hadn't seen him for five weeks — he seemed more intent on doing his own thing and it was time for a change. I asked Chip Koehnke, whom I appointed as head coach of my Faldo Golf Academy in Florida, to have a look at his swing and I'm very impressed with him."

"He studied every single aspect of my game and showed a lot of bottle by saying things I've done for years were

wrong and advising just the opposite. Chip is a disciple of my own registered teaching system and all the things I preach, the Hogan principles and everything."

"He is best placed to unravel the knots and get me back to my old thoughts and translate that into feel. He's put in his own two-pen'th and we've covered everything, right down to the putting, which was great in Paris last week."

Faldo, who intends playing more in Europe next year, had Koehnke, who is of Polish extraction, with him at the Lancôme Trophy, where he bounced back to top form with a last round of 65 which took him to sixth place.

John Simpson, who has looked after Faldo's business affairs for 20 years via the International Management Group and then as his personal manager, says: "The transformation is incredible."

"Chip is not some superstar guru. He's basically just instructing Nick in Nick's own methods. His split with David Leadbetter was not easy because he's such a loyal guy. But he's had physical problems, principally golfer's elbow, and whether these result from what he's been trying to do on the practice ground he'll never know."

Leadbetter admits he was "upset to receive a cursory note" ending his relationship with Faldo, for whom he insists he still has the greatest respect.

He adds: "He's not always endeared himself to me from a personal point of view but he's been a great pupil and has, of course, been fabulous for my career. I'd like to think I've been good for him."

"It's disappointing when you work so hard with a player for so many years. We had a good relationship, as far as these things go in this field. Sometimes you need a fresh outlook, I suppose. Still, it was a bit of a shock."



Separate ways... Nick Faldo and David Leadbetter as recently as July. Faldo blames a lack of communication for his decision to split

Rose in mood to start paying his way

Gordon Richardson in Cologne

JUSTIN ROSE could well start balancing the books in the Linde German Masters, which start here in Cologne today. He has already demonstrated his capabilities when he gets to play more than 500 rounds and he has just lifted his confidence with a round of 67 (after two anxious 74s) which enabled him to qualify for the European Tour School in Spain in late November.

The cost of a seven-tournament stint for the rookie professional, his father and mentor Ken, and his caddy Stuart Bradley has been more than £12,000, including his European Tour fee, but to date his official earnings are £25, the top prize in the Dutch Open pro-am on the first day of his professional career.

A top-three finish in Cologne, which would secure his Tour card without going to the Tour School, is probably beyond him but, with the weight of expectation temporarily removed from his slim shoulders, Rose believes his final Tour invitation could at last produce a breakthrough.

The 18-year-old, who set the pulses racing at the Open Championship in July, has missed the halfway cut in all six Tour outings since joining the paid ranks.

But at Chart last week he rediscovered his mid-summer form. "I hit 15 greens in regulation in the final round and showed much more consistency," he said. "My problem has been if I have a good first round I follow with a bad second and vice versa."

Earning a place at the Tour School is a dubious privilege, with 180 professionals chasing 35 spots. But it is a happy prospect compared with the alternative of not even qualifying to play for one's own money on the second-tier Challenge Tour.

While Rose was shooting 67 at Chart Hills, his friend and rival Sergio Garcia of Spain took second place, two strokes off the lead, in the Lancôme Trophy in Paris. The pair are widely tipped to be the next Faldo and Seve Ballesteros of European golf.

The British Amateur champion Garcia will not turn professional until after next April's US Masters but, said Rose: "He's 30 yards past me off the tee and has that extra dimension. I wouldn't have been surprised to see him go on and win in France." In an effort to narrow the gap Rose has had his club shafts lengthened by an inch.

Media attention has been relaxed on the young man who was prematurely described by the R & A secretary Sir Michael Bonallack the day after the Open as "Britain's answer to Tiger Woods".

Rose insisted: "I actually enjoy it. I've never been a worrier. I've been lucky in my career so far and, if things don't work out, I've got plenty of time left."

Bitter pill to swallow when swing doctor gets struck off

Lawrence Donegan on the discarded guru who has become a victim of fashion after turning Nick Faldo into a major player

LEE TREVINO made \$5 million with a swing that he liked to compare with a cave-man killing his lunch, which probably explained why his contempt for the methods of professional golf teachers knew no limits.

"Sure I will," he said when asked if he would consider hiring his own swing doctor. "Just as soon as I can find one that can beat me."

Trevino, the original blue-collar professional and golfing artisan, was responding to a question about the "treasure among his fellow pros for hiring 'golf gurus'" — a fashion which had its origins in the partnership forged between

Nick Faldo and David Leadbetter in 1985.

Faldo sought out Leadbetter that summer after becoming convinced that the swing which had made him one of Europe's best players was not good enough to win him a major championship. Two years later Faldo won the Open Championship with a swing which had been completely remodelled by Leadbetter. He went on to become one of the game's dominant figures for almost a decade, winning five more Majors.

The impact on Leadbetter's career was equally dramatic. His pupils' success changed him from a middling touring pro with

a decent reputation as a teacher into a global industry. David Leadbetter instruction manuals, videos and golfing aids were eagerly gobbled up by the

Manuals, videos and aids were gobbled up by the masses as they tried to buy into the miracle

golfer masses in the belief that they too could buy into the Faldo miracle.

The commercialisation of the Faldo/Leadbetter partnership reached its apogee, according to taste, nadir with the Powerball — an everyday beach ball just like the one Leadbetter

used as a training tool with Faldo. "An overgrown lump of plastic with delusions of grandeur," was the verdict of one of Leadbetter's rivals on the Powerball at the time.

The break-up of the partnership will come as a shock to many amateurs who forked out £29.99 for a

for a professional's tournament victory. Money is another source of conflict but, above all, success on the course matters and in the last couple of seasons Faldo has been notably unsuccessful.

It is one of golf's immutable rules that failure is never the fault of the

game that Leadbetter's methods of teaching, which places the emphasis on the importance of "the body" in the golf swing, are no longer fashionable. The successful players these days, like the current Open and US Masters champion Mark O'Meara, are "hands and arms" players.

Leadbetter can still count some of the world's leading players as his pupils, including Ernie Els, Nick Price and Greg Norman, and there are 17 David Leadbetter Golf Academies scattered around the world.

"He was the bloke who revitalised the business of golf coaching," says John Huggan, co-author of Leadbetter's first two manuals. "Every golf guru in the world should get down on his knees and thank God for Leadbetter and the work he did with Faldo."

Faldo showed little inclination to get down on his knees. Indeed he sacked Leadbetter with a letter followed up with a few words after a practice round in Germany.

By contrast Leadbetter was generous about his former pupil and acknowledged that "nothing was forever."

"He has, of course, been fabulous for my career but I would like to think I have been good for his too," he said. "You put in a lot of time and effort out there and it's a bit upsetting to get a cursory note to finish it all."

If there is a hint of bitterness in this it could be that he has reached the conclusion that many others in the game reached some time ago: you can teach Faldo how to swing a club but you cannot teach him manners.

Cycling

Drugs-run masseur leaves Virenque with no clothes

William Fotheringham in Salamanca

THIS business as usual for Richard Virenque and Alex Zülle despite mounting pressure over drug allegations. Virenque may well finish in the top 10 when the Tour of Spain concludes on Sunday in Madrid, and Zülle, winner in 1996 and 1997, is a good outside bet for third place.

Revelations continue, however, about the allegations which led to them and their Festina Watches team-mates Laurent Brochard and Pascal Hervé being thrown off this year's Tour de France.

Brochard has confessed to using the banned hormone erythropoietin (EPO) but his fellow Frenchmen Virenque and Hervé said that, if they were given the drug, it was without their prior knowledge or agreement.

That defence, always shaky, was rucked to the core yesterday when Willy Voet, the team's masseur who was stopped by Customs with a large quantity of EPO in his car during the Tour de France, explained to the French press, "I don't know why, in his opinion, Virenque must have known what was going on."

"I noted down every day what every cyclist in the team was given. At the end of the year, in the presence of the team manager — who is on

police bail on a charge of supplying banned substances — we calculated what each rider had taken. Each paid according to his consumption."

He added: "Richard takes no more drugs and no less than any other cyclist." Earlier Brochard, the reigning world road race champion, was denied a place in the French team for this year's championship because he is under investigation after his EPO confession. This is the first time any world cycling champion has been unable to defend his title because of drugs charges. Virenque and Hervé have also been excluded, as has Zülle, the Swiss who was the world time-trial

champion in 1996 and has confessed publicly to using EPO. Zülle's punishment will be decided by his national federation next Thursday but there is no immediate prospect of further sanctions against the French trio. Police in Lille questioned them after the EPO confession. This is the first time any world cycling champion has been unable to defend his title because of drugs charges. Virenque and Hervé have also been excluded, as has Zülle, the Swiss who was the world time-trial



Virenque... 'in the dark'

The statements are sub judice but that has not stopped them being leaked to French newspapers, which have printed them in full.

Virenque refuses to discuss the matter but his lawyer said yesterday: "The media are blackmailing him. The journalists should stop playing the part of Kenneth Starr."

The parallel is apt like Zipergate, the Festina scandal is unprecedented and no one, least of all the men at its centre, knows where it will end. Yesterday there was no change in the Vuelta's overall standings at the end of the 200km stage from Leon to here, which was won by the Italian Fabrizio Guidi. Spain's Abraham Olano retained the overall lead, with 22 seconds in hand on the Frenchman Laurent Jalabert. Mountain stages today and tomorrow and Saturday's time-trial will be decisive.

Boxing

Holyfield puts wanted sign on Lewis but may meet Tyson first

EVANDER HOLYFIELD, E the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion, wants to fight Lennox Lewis but is hedging his bets on a third battle with Mike Tyson.

Holyfield said in New York: "I'm looking forward to fighting Lewis. He's a wanted man. But, if Tyson becomes a champion again, I guess I'll have to fight him. If not, we will see."

The promoter Don King also used the "wanted" line to describe Lewis but has not gone so far as to sign a deal that would give the champion \$13.5 million for a unification bout against Britain's World Boxing Council champion.

Tyson must await a psychiatric report before a Nevada State Athletic Commission panel decides whether to end the ban it imposed on him last year for hitting Holyfield's ears during their second title fight.

Holyfield, who has beaten Tyson twice, defended his IBF crown successfully, if not all that convincingly, against the unranked Vaughn Bean last weekend and his next scheduled opponent is Britain's Henry Akwande.

Lewis puts his title on the line against Zeljko Mavrovic of Croatia in Uncasville, Connecticut, on Saturday.

Cricket

England trio on stand-by

ANDREW CADDICK, Graeme Hick and Phil Tufnell have been placed on stand-by for England's Ashes tour of Australia. Caddick, of Somerset, was the leading English wicket-taker this summer with 105 but lost out to Kent's Dean Headley for the tour while John Crawley was given the seventh batting place ahead of Hick, although the Worcestershire player was named for next month's Wills International Cup one-day tournament in Bangladesh.

The Middlesex spinner Tufnell failed to win a place in any of the England squads. Essex's Peter Such gaining a surprise call-up for Australia.

But David Graveney, chairman of selectors, said yesterday: "The three players we have placed on stand-by are proven Test cricketers who are very much part of our plans. The trio could be considered unlucky not to have made the original tour selection and, should the opportunity arise, I am sure that they will complement the team in Australia."

Graham Thorpe and his young Surrey team-mate Alex Tudor, meanwhile, have passed fitness tests on their respective back and foot injuries and will leave for Australia with the rest of the England party on October 21.

Lord MacLaurin, chairman

of the England and Wales Cricket Board, believes a massive financial injection is needed to produce a successful national side. "Investment in the game is vital," he said yesterday. "Many people criticised us when we fought for delisting but they didn't seem to appreciate the need for us to secure more revenue."

"At the moment the turnover of cricket is about £60 million but we have identified the need to invest £300 million if we are going to improve facilities for spectators around the country and develop the kind of talent we need to sustain a winning England team."

Rugby League

Ekoku to quit Bulls and aim for discus place in Great Britain team for Sydney Olympics

ABI EKOKU will leave the Bradford Bulls at the end of this season and return to discus throwing in an attempt to make the Sydney Olympic Games.

Ekoku, 32-year-old brother of the Wimbledon striker Efan, represented Great Britain in the 1990 European Championships and England in the 1990 Commonwealth Games before switching to rugby league with London Crusaders in 1993. He moved to Halifax the following year and joined Bradford in 1997.

"Getting to Sydney is an ambition of mine and, if I am to stand any chance, I have to start training this winter," he said. "I'll give it six months to test the water."

Ekoku, recently appointed chairman of the Professional Players' Association, made 12 appearances for Bradford last season and was outstanding in their 38-4 defeat by Wigan at Central Park last Sunday.

Lee Gilmore, one of the rising stars of Super League this season, has signed a new contract with Wigan until 2002.

but Robbie McCormack, their experienced Australian hooker, has rejected a new one-year deal.

London Broncos have selected two local 19-year-olds, Dominic Peters and Ed Jennings, for their last fixture of the season at Castleford on Sunday. Peters starts in the second row and Jennings is on the bench.

The Australian clubs Illawarra and St George have merged and will be known, not surprisingly, as Illawarra St George.

Sport in brief

Squash

The world championships starting in Newmeyer have been switched from India to Qatar in the United Arab Emirates because of fears for the safety of Jansher Kahn, the eight times former world champion, from Pakistan, who is a target of threats from Hindu extremists had already caused a change of venue from Bombay to Bangalore. But John Nunnick, executive director of the Professional Squash Association, said that had not eliminated the political difficulties.

Olympic Sport

Jim Fox and Dick Palmer have been awarded the Olympic Order, the International Olympic Committee's highest accolade. Fox competed for Britain at four Games in the modern pentathlon and won a team gold in 1976. Palmer was Britain's Olympic team leader between 1980 and 1986.

Equestrianism

Claudia Jordan, 14, took a short cut to the last fence to win the Junior Foxhunter Championship on Classic Henna on the first day of the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley, writes John Kerr.

Badminton

The Badminton Association of England has been awarded £1.3 million by the National Lottery, the largest grant the sport has received, writes Richard Jago.

Rugby Union

The Scottish international flanker Ian Smith, 35, may have to retire because of knee ligament damage suffered playing for Moseley in March.

Trade hurdle trips up Ladbrokes, page 13
Faldo sloughs off golf guru, page 15

Strachan on Leeds subs' bench, page 14
Drugs spotlight on Virenque, page 15

SportsGuardian

Newcastle's push for Super League splits the clubs

Robert Armstrong on the widening gulf between rugby union's rebels and loyalists

NEWCASTLE'S desire for a rugby union Super League has widened the split among England's Premiership clubs over the question of future competition structures in Britain and Europe.

The danger of a breakaway from Rugby Football Union (RFU) control has resurfaced despite the champions' insistence that they continue to have "a good dialogue" with Brian Baister, chairman of the RFU management board.

The English clubs' blunt refusal to attend this week's home unions working party meeting in Manchester to discuss options for a new British League has emphasised crucial differences among the clubs on how it should be set up and run.

Newcastle and Saracens prefer a streamlined set-up that would exclude the Scots and the Irish, whom they regard as commercially unattractive, whereas Leicester, Gloucester and Wasp are prepared to accommodate the Celts.

Behind the growing confusion is the ticking time-bomb of Newcastle's legal submission to the European Court which seeks to have RFU/IB control of the club game set aside on the ground of restraint of trade.

Newcastle, whose owner Sir John Hall believes the RFU should act merely as a law-making body, hoped to establish complete commercial independence of Twickenham and to persuade other members of English First Division Rugby that they should exercise unfettered control over TV and sponsorship deals.

This week Baister's patience with the EFDR hawks snapped and he spoke of his RFU colleagues' desire to set

up a "war chest" with the aim of purchasing their own clubs and players in order to guarantee their loyalty. Twickenham's control of international rugby — and its £27.5 million long-term agreement with BSkyB — would provide sufficient income to make a new league owned and run by the RFU a viable option.

Doug Ash, the EFDR chief executive, has attempted to play down the serious rift between hawks and doves among his directors but a meeting of the clubs on October 22 is certain to expose their lack of common ground.

The Premiership clubs will consider proposals from an EFDR sub-committee formulated by Ed Goodall of Bath, who has adopted a "wait and see" policy over British/European leagues to avoid an em-

barrassing conflict with those clubs intent on shaking off the controls of European Rugby Cup Limited.

Another bone of contention among the Premiership clubs is their commitment to play a series of friendlies against Cardiff and Swansea which many regard as a backdoor route to the formation of a British League.

A number of cash-strapped clubs, including Bedford and West Hartlepool, would have preferred meaningful Premiership fixtures instead of taking part in friendlies from which the Welsh, on the evidence of their excellent home gates, have more to gain.

Even Leicester, the best-supported club in the country, have switched their home game against Cardiff to the evening of tomorrow week because they fear counter-attractions on a Saturday afternoon would result in a reduced gate.

If English rugby's private-enterprise hawks do not begin to box clever within the EFDR's corridors of power they could find themselves in a mini-League of their own when hats have to be thrown into the British/European ring for next season.

Twickenham may not even have to consider buying its own clubs should the Premiership doves decide to give their loyalty to the devil they know instead of to Hall.

Glanmor Griffiths, chairman of the home unions working party on the feasibility of cross-border rugby, said yesterday that a British League could be launched next season embracing up to 40 of the top clubs from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Dismissing reports that any new league might cater for only 10 clubs — six from England, two from Wales and one each from Scotland and Ireland — he said: "A British League is the best way forward for everyone."

Manager bows to pressure



Who needs a golf guru anyway?



Frank Keating

STILL one of only three Britons to have won the Open Championship of both Britain and the United States, the great Ted Ray (1877-1943) was approached at the height of his fame by a golfing pupil anxious to know how to obtain greater length off the tee with his driver. "Hit it a bloody sight harder," Ray replied.

All has changed now. Coaching predominates and the coach is king, along with, it seems, a qualified master of anatomy and geometry, physics, metaphysics, physiology, organology and any otherology you care to mention.

Thus the oodles of air time and acres of space given over to the sacking by Nick Faldo of his coach David Leadbetter. The same sort of end-of-the-world-as-we-know-it palaver was engendered when tennis's Greg Rusedski served the order of the boot to his coach during Wimbledon in June.

What Leadbetter never managed was to organise the mechanics of Faldo's smile. The two of them knew all about anatomy and muscles but nothing about fun and sport. Messrs Gloom 'n' Doom we called them as we watched them at solemn, sombre practice.

Henry Longhurst was early suspicious of the coaching science which worked on bodily mechanics: "paralysis by analysis," he called it and reckoned that, if the rest of the human race "studied similar anatomical diagrams about getting a fork into a mouth, we would either stab ourselves or starve".

Boxing is a one-on-one sport for singular operators which is, in its gold-leaf, blood-stained legend, a glory for the player-coach duo: think of Brendan Ingle and Naseem Hamed and then right back past Angelo Dundee and Emanuel Steward to Joe Louis's Harry Blackburn and Jack Dempsey's amazing Doc Kearns.

In tennis the personal coach is a comparatively recent phenomenon. Who can imagine Lew Hoad having a coach? But he did, too: Harry Hopman was at the blackboard even before "Little Mo" Connolly's celebrated "Teach" Tennant.

In my experience the modern

one-on-one tennis coach is a good buddy-buddy all right, and a decent knock-up partner, but for the rest it is not strategic "coaching" work when the chips are down but sorting out practice times and partners, booking hotels and flights and PR appearances, plus sorting out any prospective sponsors and organising their Centre Court complimentary.

Hopman mined a string of ravishing Australian players at tennis 40 years ago whom he would coax, bully, praise, berate, encourage, inveigle, persuade and sometimes rant and rave at. The old boy, an amateur too, made no money but, as a South African Davis Cup opponent, Gordon Forbes, once noted, "Harry just wanted tough, confident, fearless champions and it was almost an accident that he was one of the greatest sports-training programmes of sport". This was almost before sports coaching had been discovered, certainly before cold-eyed study of anatomy and the isms of Leadbetter.

Still golf's nonpareil, Bobby Jones learned by copying the wristy upright swing of Stewart Maiden, Carnoustie-born professional at the Atlanta Athletic Club from 1897, just jumpy, no lessons. A couple of generations later Bobby Locke, dominant in the 1940s and 50s, said he learned by continuously rereading Jones's *My Game*, adding: "Okay, they're probably correct about my weak left-hand grip, so I just make sure I collect the cheques with my right."

Jack Nicklaus had old Jack Groat as his only coach at their Ohio club. Deacon Palmer was the only one to teach his son Arnie in Pennsylvania, just as Lee Westwood's father Peter does the honours at Warwick GC, and Earl Woods has paternal care of the Tiger's progress.

WHEN I first enjoyed a hickory swipe on Gloucestershire's Minchinhampton Common course my own

taught me "the Vardon grip". Harry Vardon, six Opens and one US, was the first coaching guru, I suppose, father of the feast which the likes of Leadbetter so enjoy. How much might Leadbetter have charged Faldo for this, from old Harry's *Tips For Golfing Beginners* (1906): "Always use braces in preference to a belt around the waist. I never play with a belt. Braces seem to hold the shoulders together as they ought to be. When a man plays in a belt he has an unaccustomed sense of looseness."

So, belts off, braces on, and hit it a bloody sight harder. It makes sense to me. The old ways are usually best, if less lucrative.

McMahon blames abusive fans after resigning at Swindon

STEVE McMAHON, above, resigned yesterday as manager of Swindon Town, blaming abusive fans for his departure from the County Ground.

McMahon, 37, has been under pressure from supporters angry at Swindon's poor start to the season and decided to quit because the abuse he received was affecting his family.

After the 4-1 home defeat by Watford on Saturday fans staged a sit-in, demanding that manager and board

should resign. "The players knew something was going to happen after that," McMahon said. "I can't keep putting my family through things like that."

McMahon became player-manager of Swindon in November 1994 after an illustrious career in the top flight. He won 17 England caps and three league titles and one FA Cup winner's medal with Liverpool in the Eighties.

Report, page 14

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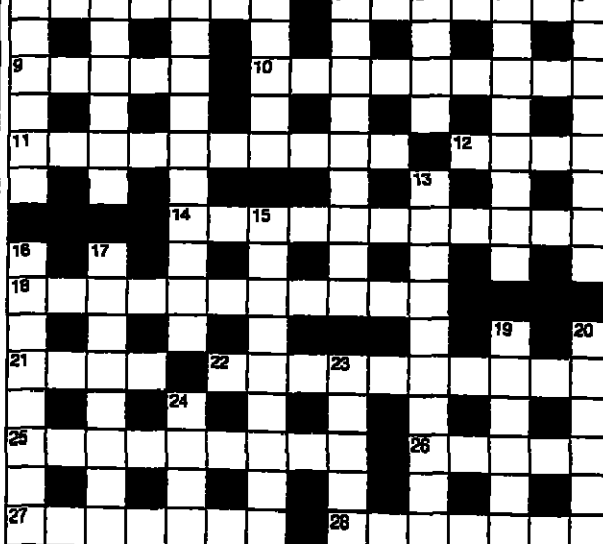


I have known Derek Draper for years and love him like a brother. Happily, this does not inhibit me from saying that his politics stink. If ever there was an advert for the need for an alternative to Blairism, Mr Draper is that billboard. Charlotte Raven on Old Labour v New Labour

G2 p5

Guardian Crossword No 21,388

Set by Araucaria



Across

- Voluptuous, with agreement when conned? (7)
- Getting away with ten deuces, possibly? (7)
- Language of speech in dialect (5)
- Ship's companies brave fellows, in report gaining currency (6)
- Be strategically superior to neutral with ego trip (10)
- Embrace archaism — little Sdown here (4)
- Much of county's very cold, with awfully nice interior — that's enough (11)
- Where Sdown was done parrot-fashion by detective, say, at constabulary (11)
- 1 down Use rod to tire many fish? Little Sdown here? (10)
- Coding n-notice — pry improperly (10)

Down

- Place of Sdown and companion in solo exhibition (6)
- Tyne in cataclysm for part of this year (5)
- Negative climber arranged 23 in place of Sdown (10)
- Youth Club leaders in shelter in place of Sdown (5)
- One third of New Labour's priorities? (8)
- American girl sharing Sdown in Welsh wood (4)
- Resentful about German city's place of Sdown (8)

- Exhibitions of 21 in Norfolk town (8)
- Sdown on record — row follows first page (10)
- The City's in the money — last part of 3's fruitfulness (8)
- Pipe up, foot: it's part of the abdomen (8)
- Shrub for people who row after love (6)
- Less brutal to 20s in Germany (6)
- Little Sdown this 'down? (6)
- One among others that are examined again (5)
- Rebel with a first at my last place of Sdown (4)

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